

Delegation leaves for S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation left for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday at the start of a tour that will also take it to Arab Gulf states for meetings with Jordanians employed in these countries. The delegation, led by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, will spend 12 days on the tour during which they will meet with Arab officials and will examine conditions of Jordanian nationals and explore areas for bolstering Jordan's cooperation with Gulf states in labour-related affairs. The minister said that the delegation will also hold meetings with representatives of Jordanians living and working in the Gulf to hear their proposals and requests that could be discussed by the second Jordanian expatriate conference due to be held in July in Amman and the implementation of resolutions of the first conference held here last year.

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King, Queen visit Omani projects

SALALAH (Petra) — Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman on Tuesday accompanied Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor in a visit to development projects in the southern regions of the Omani resort of Salalah. Sultan Qaboos briefed the King on Oman's development process and programmes. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and senior Omani officials accompanied the King and Queen and Sultan Qaboos on the trip.

Regent sends condolences to King Fahd

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent on Tuesday sent a cable to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia expressing condolences on the death of the emir of Al Bah. Sheikh Ibrahim Ibn Abdul Aziz.

Roads closed near Azraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department announced on Tuesday that the road between Hallabat Al Charbi and Hallabat Al Sharqi and between Hallabat Al Dubei and the Dead Sea, were closed due to the rise in the level of water that followed heavy rain-fall. A department spokesman asked motorists to be extra careful while driving in areas near Azraq and Hallabat. The spokesman Monday night reported that sand storms were forming around Azraq and visibility was very poor. The spokesman advised motorists living along the Desert Highway to move to safer ground for fear of floods.

Princess Caroline and husband in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Princess Caroline of Monaco, daughter of Prince Rainier and the late Prince Grace, is currently in Jordan on a private visit accompanied by her husband Stephen Gasseraghi, informed sources told the Jordan Times. The sources said that the princess and her husband — an Italian businessman — arrived in Jordan on Sunday and visited Jerash and the Dead Sea. They said that their trip ends on Thursday. They are also expected to visit Petra, the sources said. The princess and her husband are keeping a low profile during their stay in Jordan, the sources added.

France reassures Chad of support

N'DJAMENA (AP) — Andre Giraud, defence minister in France's new government, assured Chad's President Hissene Habre on Tuesday of continued French military support against the Libyan-backed rebels holding Chad's northern desert. "There can be no question of withdrawing the French troops from Chad as long as they are needed there and as long as the sovereignty of a nation is at stake in a situation of concern to the whole of Africa," Mr. Giraud told reporters later. Following talks with Giraud, who arrived late Monday in the Chad capital, Mr. Habre told a news conference he was "fully satisfied" by the defence minister's assurances.

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Bush says U.S. is pursuing new Mideast 'initiative'

Combined agency despatches

BAHRAIN — U.S. Vice-President George Bush, at the midway point in a four-nation tour of Arab Gulf states, said on Tuesday the United States is pursuing a new initiative to try to bring peace to the Middle East.

Mr. Bush told a news conference he was "not at liberty" to give details. But he noted that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the State Department's top Middle East troubleshooter, had left his party in Saudi Arabia to go elsewhere in the Middle East. Mr. Murphy, who was scheduled to accompany Mr. Bush throughout his tour of the Gulf region, stopped off in Cairo on Tuesday and later arrived in Tel Aviv where he declined comment on his mission. The vice president called Mr. Murphy's departure "a signal that we are taking up again an active pursuit of some solution." Efforts to start Middle East peace negotiations have been marking time since February, when Jordan announced it was breaking off political coordination with the leadership of the PLO. Mr. Bush told reporters: "Let's just hope some reason will prevail" on finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. Asked if the United States has some new plan to solve the problem, Mr. Bush used the term "initiative."

Afula blast wounds Israeli soldier

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A bomb exploded in the northern town of Afula on Tuesday, wounding a soldier, the deputy mayor said. The bomb went off on an empty lot in the middle of the town, located 80 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv, said Deputy Mayor Avnoam Azraq in a telephone interview. Azzan said police and town officials had closed off the area and were searching it to see if other bombs had been planted there. It was the ninth bomb explosion in Afula since January 1985, he said. Five people were wounded by a bomb in the town on Nov. 3. In the port city of Haifa a small bomb went off on a downtown street but did not cause any casualties, the radio said.

In another development in the occupied territories, the Jerusalem Post reported that Gush Emunim, a group that settles religious Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, is short of prospective settlers and of money to buy land. Uri Elizur, secretary general of the organisation's Amman division, told a seminar of settlers in the Gaza Strip on Monday that there might not be enough people to populate two planned settlements, the English-language daily said.

Israeli statistics published last week showed that 41,000 Jews lived in the West Bank at the end of 1985, up 6,000 from a year earlier, and that 2,000 Jewish settlers lived in the Gaza Strip. But the West Bank Data Project, an independent research organisation, estimated that 52,000 Jews lived in the West Bank, 10,000 more than the year before.

Peres bent on sacking Modai regardless of coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is determined to dismiss right-wing Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai even at the risk of toppling Israel's shaky coalition government, senior government sources said Tuesday.

They told Reuters that Peres would fire Modai, a member of the Likud bloc, for insulting him publicly if he did not resign before the cabinet's weekly meeting on Sunday. But they said Modai would be offered another cabinet post if he stepped down. Likud ministers warned they would leave the government, forcing its collapse, should Peres dismiss their colleague. The crisis erupted after Modai called Peres "lightning" and said he did not understand economics. Likud's leader, Foreign Min-

Jounieh bomb kills 10, injures 110 near Falange office

Six wounded in attack against SLA

Combined agency despatches

BEIRUT — A car bomb exploded near President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party office in the northern port of Jounieh, killing 10 and wounding 110, while in South Lebanon six people were wounded when a suicide car bomber rammed a checkpoint manned by Israeli-allied militiamen and blew himself up. A blue BMW saloon blew up as the square in Jounieh, 21 kilometres north of Beirut, was crowded with shoppers and office workers on their lunch break.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami branded the bombing "treacherous" and declared: "It's always the innocent people who are the victims."

In South Lebanon, a suicide bomber drove a car loaded with 100 kilograms of explosives into a checkpoint manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Kawkaba, 18 kilometres north of the Israeli border, Beirut Radio reported.

Radios reported Tuesday that 16 people were killed in the Shouf mountain village of Bsaba, southeast of Beirut, in a clan feud between militiamen from rival villages.

The state radio said the suicide bombing wounded three SLA militiamen and three civilians.

Shultz, Shevardnadze to meet on summit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz said on Tuesday he will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze next month to lay the groundwork for a second summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Arrangements for the meeting were made during a 75-minute session between Mr. Reagan and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

Mr. Shevardnadze will visit Washington in mid-May but Mr. Shultz did not say whether that would allow the two sides enough time to prepare for a summit within the pre-August timetable set by Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Shultz said Mr. Dobrynin made it clear the Soviet side would not establish any preconditions for the meeting but he said both sides expressed an interest in "substantive" results.

The arrangements for the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting were made even as a setback was occurring in a key area of superpower relations. The United States was preparing an underground nuclear explosion Tuesday morning at a Nevada test site despite a Soviet warning that the U.S. action would lead to an end to a unilateral Soviet moratorium on such testing.

Reagan administration officials said the timing of the U.S. nuclear test was coincidental with Mr. Dobrynin's visit.

U.S. postpones nuclear test

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States on Tuesday postponed a planned nuclear test that could have prompted the Soviet Union to resume its testing programme after an eight-month moratorium, administration sources said. The sources, who declined to be identified, said only that a test scheduled for 11 a.m. (1600 GMT) beneath the Nevada Desert had been delayed by weather.

said continued testing was necessary to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

Three protesters trying to stop the test have entered the grounds of the government test range in the Nevada desert, the environmental group Greenpeace said Tuesday (See page 8).



G-IN-C VISITS ARMY UNITS: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Tuesday visits formations of the Armed Forces currently taking part in a military exercise spread over a number of days. Gen. Sharif

Zaid was briefed on training programmes carried out with live ammunition and later watched part of a mock battle in which planes from the Royal Jordanian Air Force took part (Petra photo)



Saud Al Faisal

Saud: Peres plan cannot solve Mideast conflict

DHAHRAN (AP) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said on Tuesday that stability in the region would come by solving the Palestinian problem and not by pushing through a multi-billion dollar economic aid for the Middle East.

Prince Saud, talking to reporters accompanying Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, was commenting on the proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for \$20 to \$30 billion in economic aid from developed countries to help "the cause of peace" in the Middle East.

"If Israel wants to contribute to the stability of the region, there are specific things it can do," said the Saudi minister, when asked about the Peres proposal. "The region doesn't have to rely on an outside area for help."

Prince Saud mentioned in particular the Palestinian right to self-determination as a prerequisite for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Mr. Clark later left Saudi Arabia at the conclusion of a three-day visit (See page 2).

The Canadian minister earlier said that he would "take a look at" the Israeli prime minister's proposal for the programme which would be akin to the Marshall plan funds pumped to rebuild Europe after World War II.

Prince Saud told the Canadian reporters that Canada and Saudi Arabia hold "similar, if not identical" views on most Middle East and world economic issues.

That includes, he said, the rights of Palestinians to a homeland. "It is they (the Palestinians) who have lost their land," the prince said. "If justice is to be established, it's their rights which must be recognised."

Prince Saud, in extensive talks with Mr. Clark during the visit which started Sunday, urged Canada to play a more active role in helping give momentum to the Middle East peacemaking process.

Iraq says more land recaptured from Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its forces recaptured more Iranian-held land on the southern Gulf war front in a three-hour engagement on Tuesday.

A high command communiqué said the battle was for heights overlooking the Doyeyrich River basin in Misan province near the Iran-Iraq border.

Iraq said on Monday it had liberated an area more than four kilometres wide in the province that had been held by Iran for more than two years.

Of Tuesday's action, the communiqué said: "Our troops and armoured units managed to purge all the important heights overlooking the Doyeyrich River basin, taking complete control of the area."

It said the Iraqis suffered heavy casualties and large amounts of material were destroyed. Baghdad Radio quoted a military spokesman as saying col-

umns of Iraqi tanks began the "lightning" attack at 0300 local time.

"Within three hours all the heights overlooking the Doyeyrich River basin were brought under the firm control of our forces. The situation has stabilised in our favour," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

The spokesman added that the border territory was an important staging point for Iranian forces in the southern sector of the battlefield.

The Doyeyrich is a border river 50 kilometres west of the southern Iranian city of Dezful. Iraq launched a similar attack in the same area Monday to mark the 39th anniversary of the ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party.

There was no immediate Iranian comment on the new Iraqi attack. Tuesday, Iran confirmed the Iraqis had attacked, but claimed the attack was crushed.

Cairo assembly opposes foreign attack on Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's parliament expressed veiled opposition on Tuesday to any U.S. military attack on Libya, saying this would be a breach of international law.

A statement adopted by the People's Assembly named neither the United States nor Libya, but the statement's timing and the issue that prompted it left no doubt that the 458-member legislature had them in mind.

The assembly acted after a concerted attack by members of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), who dominate the chamber, on opposition party leader Ibrahim Shukry for visiting Libya last week and issuing a joint statement with his hosts that called for a "change of conditions in Egypt."

Mr. Shukry, chairman of the left-of-centre Socialist Labour Party, said he went to Libya to "show solidarity" after that country's missile clash with the United States last month over navigation rights in the Gulf of Sirte off Libya's Mediterranean coast (See page 2).

NDP parliamentarians charged that Mr. Shukry's joint statement with the Libyans in effect called for the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak, a bitter enemy of Libya's Muammar Qadhafi. Mr. Shukry countered that the wording referred to a desire for re-orientation of the 1978 U.S.-mediated Camp David agreements, which led to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty the following year.

The assembly statement reaffirmed Egypt's adherence to the treaty with Israel and rejected opposition suggestions that Camp David had removed Egypt from the Arab arena.

"No one in Egypt can countenance an attack by a foreign country on a sister Arab state," the assembly statement said.

Bomb explodes at hotel on eve of Weinberger dinner

BANGKOK (AP) — A bomb exploded just metres from where U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was to have passed on his way to a state dinner Tuesday. Authorities said three people were wounded, two of them seriously.

Police at the government-owned Eravan Hotel said the explosive went off in the hotel's parking lot at about 6 p.m., 90 minutes before the scheduled start of a dinner Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda was giving for Mr. Weinberger.

The reception was moved to the Hilton Hotel, where Mr. Weinberger and his party are staying during his three-day visit.

Police on the scene said the bomb was planted in a trash can in a driver's rest area next to the hotel's entrance gate. Mr. Weinberger's limousine would have passed within about five metres of the trash can and stopped at the hotel's main doorway about 20 metres from the can.

Police said it was not known whether the explosion was linked to Mr. Weinberger's visit or an anti-U.S. demonstration earlier Tuesday.

Earlier, about 150 students and workers rallied opposite government house — where Mr. Weinberger was meeting with Mr. Prem — protesting recent U.S. trade legislation and a proposed stockpile of U.S. armaments in Thailand.

That police chief General Narong Mahanont, who rushed to the scene to direct the investigations, said he did not know who was responsible for the blast. He said there had been no earlier threats and no-one had yet claimed responsibility for the blast.

He talked to reporters standing near a pool of blood as Thai investigators aided by a U.S. explosives expert worked under arc lights to sift through the debris. Broken glass lay scattered over a 100-square-metre area. Weinberger fledges continued support for Thailand, page 8

Libyan army chief reports 56 dead in clash with U.S.

CAIRO (R) — The commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed forces told an Egyptian party leader that 56 Libyans were killed in last month's clashes with the U.S. Sixth Fleet, the Egyptian weekly newspaper Al Shaab reported Tuesday.

The remark passed on by Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the opposition Socialist Labour Party (SLP), was believed to be the first semi-official report on Libyan losses in U.S. strikes against a Libyan missile site and its sinking of two Libyan patrol boats in the Gulf of Sirte.

Mr. Shukri has been repudiated by the Egyptian Parliament for his visit to Libya, an antagonist of Egypt since the two fought a brief border war in 1977.

Mr. Shukri met Col. Muammar Qaddafi during his visit to Tripoli and said the Libyan leader told him the confrontation with the United States was over for the moment.

"But the battle against America is escalating," Mr. Shukri quoted Col. Qaddafi as saying.

"America should see that the Sirte incident earned it the hatred of the world and that the earth is shaking under the feet of America all over the world because of its stupid policies."

Mr. Shukri said he was told by the military chief, Col. Abu Bakr Younes, that the Americans lost two planes during the confrontation and the reason for the high Libyan death toll was "U.S. trickery."

While we allowed an American helicopter to cross 'the line of death' to pick up their pilots for humanitarian reasons the Americans attacked a Libyan salvage boat whose crews were trying to rescue our sailors after their vessels were hit," Mr. Shukri quoted Col. Younes as saying.

The term "line of death" was coined by Col. Qaddafi to describe

the 32nd parallel across the mouth of the disputed gulf beyond which he said Libyan forces would fight U.S. encroachment.

The Sixth Fleet was sent to contest Col. Qaddafi's claim that the whole of the gulf is Libyan territorial water.

Mr. Shukri said Col. Younes conceded that the Libyans lost a fishing vessel, a tugboat and a navy ship whose type was not specified.

Bonn to refuse U.S. demands

Meanwhile the United States has called on West Germany to take reprisals against Tripoli after presenting Bonn with a dossier alleging Libyan involvement in a bomb attack on a Berlin discotheque, government sources said Tuesday.

But they indicated that Bonn would reject the evidence as inadequate and agree to consider punitive measures only if it had water-tight proof of Libyan involvement in the blast.

A senior U.S. diplomat had lodged a formal request that West Germany take political and economic measures against Tripoli including the expulsion of Libyan diplomats based in Bonn, the sources said.

The request was accompanied by U.S. secret service reports, based chiefly on surveillance of the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in East Berlin, which alleged there was a clear link between Tripoli and the weekend bombing, they added.

Two people, a U.S. soldier and a Turkish woman, were killed in the

Group threatens to strike in Italy

ROME (R) — An Arab commando group has threatened to attack Italian targets unless the government releases two Lebanese prisoners held in Italian jails, the Italian News Agency ANSA reported.

ANSA said the threat was contained in a statement delivered to its Beirut office by the "Group for the Defence of Arab Political Prisoners in Europe."

The group said it had lost patience and would tolerate no further delay in its demand for the release of Abdullah Al Mansouri and Josephine Abdo Sarkis, who are serving sentences of 15 and 16 years' imprisonment in Italy.

Mansouri, arrested in 1984 while trying to enter Italy with a suitcase full of explosives, and Sarkis, who was seized at Fiumicino Airport, were convicted by a Trieste court last June of taking part in terrorist attacks claimed by the "Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions."

In an earlier statement made on March 21, the group claimed responsibility for bomb attacks in France, including an explosion in a Paris shopping centre in which two people were killed and 28 injured.

It warned them of further attacks if "Arab political prisoners" held in France and Italy were not set free.

"We will tolerate no delay. To prove this, Italian streets will witness tragedies like those in France," the latest statement said.

"We will strike with an iron hand and there will be no further ultimatum, we have warned you," it added.

The daily La Repubblica said Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro briefed Prime Minister Bettino Craxi Monday night on the latest threat, which it said was borne out by information collected by Italy's two intelligence services.

Ghali in Israel for Labour convention

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Egyptian diplomat arrived in Israel Tuesday to take part in the convention of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party and to hold talks with Israeli officials about stalled Mideast peace contacts.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Butros Ghali, came here at the head of a three-man delegation in an Egyptian effort to warm ties with Israel.

Dr. Ghali, who is scheduled to meet later with Peres, said in a brief arrival statement at Ben Gurion International Airport that his contacts with the Israeli Labour Party were important for "bringing about complete and lasting peace in the area."

He declined to answer any questions.

Dr. Ghali was met by the secretary general of the Labour Party, Uzi Bar-Am, and by the director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche.

Kimche told reporters Dr. Ghali also would meet with himself and with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir for working sessions regarding the Tabat border dispute and other peace-related topics. The dispute over the tiny Red Sea resort has clouded normal ties between the two countries who signed a peace treaty in 1979.

Dr. Ghali may also discuss with Israeli officials a Peres proposal reportedly presented to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday by visiting Israeli Parliament member Abba Eban.

The daily Hadashot reported Tuesday that the proposal called for Egypt to mediate between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians for joint peace negotiations.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was due to arrive in Israel to discuss means of speeding up resolution of the Tabat question. Mr. Murphy will stop here briefly before flying to Cairo, Israeli newspapers reported.

The daily Haaretz reported that Mr. Murphy was opening at Peres' request, made to Secretary of State George Shultz when the Israeli premier visited Washington last week.

Peres asked for U.S. mediation after more than three months of talks between the sides failed to yield a formula for international arbitration to resolve the border dispute.

Clark ends Saudi visit, arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark arrived in Cairo from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, after talks with King Fahd on means of strengthening economic and political cooperation.

The Saudi Press Agency merely reported that Mr. Clark was received by the king, without elaborating.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Prince Saud, in extensive talks during the visit, which started Sunday, urged Canada to play a more active role in helping give momentum to the Middle East peace-making process.

Mr. Clark's press secretary, Sean Brady, said Prince Saud indicated that Canada could influence the U.S. position on the Middle East and talk Washington into taking "a more even-handed approach" between the Arabs and Israel.

The Canadian minister, a former prime minister, was in Saudi Arabia after a visit to Jordan. His Middle East tour, which started last Thursday, will also take him to Israel.

Arriving in Cairo, Mr. Clark told reporters his discussions with Egyptian leaders would cover Middle East problems, international terrorism and ways of boosting trade relations.

He was expected to meet Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid Tuesday night and is due to confer with President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday.

Mr. Clark is also scheduled to visit a Canadian contingent stationed in Sinai as part of the Multi-National Force which monitors implementation of the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Like U.S. Vice-President George Bush, Clark was interested in exchanging views on means of stabilising the world oil market. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest exporter of crude oil.

"Despite any differences we (Canada and Saudi Arabia) might have in approach, we have a strong, shared interest in maintaining a stable and orderly international market for this vital commodity," Mr. Clark on Monday told Canadian expatriates working at the Bell Canada compound in Riyadh.

Paper urges U.S. restraint over attacks

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's leading state-owned newspaper is urging the United States to show restraint in responding to last week's bombings of a TWA jet and a Berlin disco frequented by U.S. soldiers.

"Arbitrary acts of punishment usually lead to the commission of arbitrary acts of violence, hence the importance of deliberation before taking counteraction and the necessity of self-restraint," the newspaper Al-Ahram said in an editorial Monday.

Al-Ahram also urged the United States not to jump to conclusions that Libya was behind the latest attacks. The editorial appeared after the weekend bombing

at a West Berlin disco in which a U.S. soldier and a Turkish woman were killed and Wednesday's explosion aboard a TWA jet over Greece in which four Americans died.

"If the United States is not sure so far of the identities of the perpetrators of the latest incidents... then it is premature to take any decision involving punishment for those responsible," the paper said.

Al-Ahram claimed last week that the United States had asked Egypt three times to join in military operations against Libya in retaliation for alleged Libyan-sponsored terrorism but the Cairo government refused. U.S. officials

in Washington denied the report. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has accused Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi of supporting "terrorist" operations against Egypt, including the November hijacking of an Egyptian jet to Malta.

Police in West Berlin say they have no solid leads into the disco bombing.

Richard Burt, the U.S. ambassador to West Germany, said in an American television interview Monday that U.S. authorities have been in touch with Soviet and East German officials regarding possible Libyan attacks.

Car bomb kills 10, injures 110 in Jounieh

(Continued from page 1)

500-metre radius and started big fires, witnesses told Reuters.

The Falange Party has been a target for bombers since mostly Christian rightist militiamen rebelled last January against a Syrian-backed peace plan for Lebanon and toppled "Lebanese Forces" leader Elie Hobeika, who signed the pact with Muslims.

Mr. Hobeika, now Damascus-based, has denied accusations by Falange opponents that he is behind the explosions.

Rescue teams clawed through the wreckage as cars and shops burned cars and shops. Jumpy rightist militiamen sealed off the devastated square, firing their U.S.-made M-16 rifles in the air to

clear paths for ambulances.

Police said most of the casualties were employees of the Credit Libanais and Brazilian banks in the two buildings.

The Central High School and the Saint Famille School were damaged by the explosion, but none of the students and teachers were reported hurt.

Elsewhere in Lebanon, militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) were deployed in two mountain villages after 10 people were killed in a feud.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt said the clash between Sunni Muslims and Druze at Sabaa in the Iqlim Al Kharrout hills south of Beirut was a "big disaster" and he would crack down on troublemakers.

"Beware. If the people closest to me — (his sons) Taymour and Aslan — should one day violate the unity of ranks, I will kill them myself," Mr. Junblatt told a funeral for a victim.

"The quarrel is personal, not political," said a Sunni who fled his home in Sabaa with a dozen of others during the gunbattle early on Tuesday. PSP fighters barred newsmen from entering Sabaa.

In Jounieh, a popular holiday resort and a major rightist militia base, rescuers told Voice of Lebanon the car bomb wrecked more than 100 cars and damaged four buildings.

The radio station repeatedly broke into scheduled programmes to appeal for blood donors, fire fighters and first aid workers.

Egyptian arms aid to Sudan exceeds \$38m

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has supplied Sudan with military aid valued at more than \$38 million since the coup that ousted President Jaafar Numeiri a year ago, a leading newspaper said Tuesday.

The state-owned Al-Ahram also reported Cairo has told the Sudanese government that if Numeiri is proved to have engaged in political activity against it, Egypt will reconsider his asylum here.

Numeiri was transiting Cairo on April 6 last year en route home from the United States when word came of his overthrow by Defence Minister Gen. Abdul Rahman Swaroudh, who now heads the Revolutionary Military Council (TMC).

Egypt gave Numeiri asylum on condition he avoid political activity and rejected Sudanese demands that he be extradited to stand trial on charges ranging from treason to financial mismanagement.

The Al-Ahram report cited Egyptian military and to the new regime to rebut what it called charges by politicians and military officers in Khartoum that Egypt was more generous to Sudan during

Numeiri's 16-year presidency than it has been since the coup.

Since last April, the newspaper said, Egypt has sent to Sudan as gifts at least two shipments of military hardware worth \$22 million.

The latest shipment began last week with anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, three million rounds of ammunition of various types and other military equipment, it said.

It is being continued this week with 20 armoured cars as a first instalment, on an unspecified number to be supplied, Al-Ahram said.

Al-Ahram said Cairo also turned over as a gift \$16 million worth of Egyptian arms that was on loan to Sudan when Numeiri was overthrown.

There were additional millions of dollars (from Egypt) in the form of military training and the construction of a missile base, exceeding what Egypt gave Sudan before the coup, the newspaper said.

Egyptian officials have confirmed that Cairo was giving Sudan military aid but have provided no details.

Ankara hopes to boost relations with New Delhi

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal hopes to open a new phase in Turkish-Indian relations during a visit to India this week, officials said Tuesday.

Mr. Ozal, accompanied by Foreign Minister Yahit Halefoglu, flies to New Delhi Wednesday after talks in Saudi Arabia with King Fahd.

His six-day visit to India will be first by a Turkish prime minister.

Mr. Ozal and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will discuss the promotion of economic relations

and exchange views on regional and international issues, the officials said.

Mr. Gandhi told the Turkish Daily News in an interview published last week that he saw no reason why Turkey's close ties with fellow Islamic conference member Pakistan should hinder links between Ankara and Delhi.

He expressed hope for closer relations with Turkey. Trade volume last year was \$27.6 million, with Turkish exports of \$21.6 million and imports six million.

Washington asks Turkey to stop E. German flights

ANKARA (R) — The United States has asked Turkey to stop cheap holiday flights by the Communist East German Airline Interflug, saying they could harm West Berlin, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources said Turkey was reviewing the issue but saw it as a purely commercial matter and was unlikely to take any action, considering that Interflug also offers cheap flights to many other Western countries.

Interflug this year plans summer flights to Dalaman and Antalya on Turkey's southern coast. It already has scheduled flights to Istanbul.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		21:05	Evening Show Contd.
Tel. 73111-19		21:55	News Summary
		22:00	Evening Show Continued
PROGRAMME ONE		23:00	News Summary
16:00	Religious programme	23:05	Evening Show Continued
16:30	Cartoons	23:57	News Headlines
17:35	Cartoons	24:00	Close Down
18:35	Documentary		
19:20	Arabic Series		
19:50	Arabic Series		
20:00	News in Arabic		
20:40	Arabic Series		
21:30	Documentary		
21:50	Tomorrow's programme		
22:00	Wrestling		
23:00	News in Arabic		
PROGRAMME TWO			
18:00	Documentaire (French)		
19:00	News in French		
19:15	Varieties		
19:35	Varieties		
20:00	News in Arabic		
20:30	Three's Company		
21:10	Documentary (Discovery)		
21:30	Alfred Hitchcock ("Night Fever")		
22:00	News in English		
22:15	Sins (Part 2)		
RADIO AM			
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Tel. 73111-19			
07:00	Light Music		
07:30	News desk		
08:00	Morning Show		
08:30	News Summary		
09:05	Morning Show Contd.		
11:00	Pop Session		
12:00	News Summary		
12:30	Pop Session		
13:05	News Summary		
14:00	Pop Session		
14:50	News Bulletin		
15:00	Instrumentals		
15:30	The Young Socials		
15:50	Contest Hour		
16:00	News Summary		
16:05	Instrumentals		
16:30	Old Favourites		
17:00	Jordan Vodcast		
17:30	Pop Session		
18:00	News Summary		
18:05	Over a Cup of Tea		
18:30	Arabic Music		
19:00	News Desk		
19:30	Dale with a Star		
20:00	Evening Show		
21:00	News Summary		
BBC WORLD SERVICE			
n/a. 720, 1415 KHz.			
07:00	Newskast 07:30 Waveguide 07:30		
Book Choice 07:45	Financial News		
08:00	World News 08:00		
08:09	24 Hours: News Summary 08:30		
Report on Religion 08:45	The World Today 09:00		
Newskast 09:30	09:30 Meridian		
09:50	World News 09:50		
News Summary 10:30	09:50		
10:45	That's Trad 11:00 World News		
11:00	Reflections 11:15 Classical Record Review 11:30		
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Shipping line carries 85,021 passengers during March

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) last month transported 85,021 passengers between Aqaba and Nuweibe in Sinai, nearly 85 per cent of the total number of passengers travelling between the two ports during that month. According to Mr. Yasser Al Tal, the company's manager, JNSLC ships also carried 1,047 lorries, refrigerated trucks, containers and small cars during March.

These figures are expected to increase during the coming summer and the company will make necessary arrangements to meet the increasing demand by adding another daily voyage between the two ports to make the total number three, Mr. Tal said. Nearly 1,500 passengers can be taken on the Jordanian boat and 1,300 passengers can travel on board an Egyptian ship and approximately 4,225 passengers are expected to travel on the Jordanian ferry each day during summer, he continued.

The sea route between the two ports was formally opened in April last year and the inaugural ceremony was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Sultan Qaboos of Oman and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Forum prepares for talks on Arab debts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will hold a symposium on April 23 to tackle the issue of Arab countries' debts, according to an announcement here Tuesday. The announcement said that leading Arab financiers and businessmen are expected to take part in the symposium, which will be organised in cooperation with the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). The announcement said that the ATF will hold a general meeting on April 21 to discuss a working paper on Arab national security in the coming decade and to review a report by ATF's secretary general on programmes prepared by the forum's subcommittees on the coming year's activities.

Mafrag goes to the polls April 10

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A new municipal council for Mafrag will be elected on April 10. Altogether 22 candidates have announced that they will be running for the 10-member council which will be given a mandate for the coming four years. Nearly 9,486 people are eligible to vote and they have a choice of two blocs, each comprising 10 candidates in addition to two individuals running as independents. Mafrag's first municipal council was formed in 1945.

AOAD to hold horticulture conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Arab conference on horticulture will open in Amman on Saturday, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) announced Tuesday. The AOAD regional director said that at least 75 specialists from Arab countries and the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Jordan as well as experts from foreign countries will take part in the five-day conference. Several working papers will be discussed during the AOAD sponsored conference dealing with the production of flowers and fruit, irrigation techniques and combating pests, he said. The papers will also deal with the economics of production, marketing and exporting crops and producing improved seeds by applying modern farming techniques.

UNRWA director meets Baqa'a notables

AMMAN (J.T.) — During his meetings in the last two days with refugee notables from Baqa'a camp, Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist touched upon the agency's services, activities and finances and took note of refugee requests for possible improvements in the agency's services in Baqa'a camp, according to an UNRWA press release.

'Annie' — colour, fun and entertainment for all

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The opening night of "Annie" at the Royal Cultural Centre, Monday, was all that had been promised; from the huge cream and cherry filled cardboard birthday cake to the children, the colour and the fun. Diverse, fast moving and professional, it was a remarkable achievement for all concerned, particularly for the director, Mrs. Vanessa Batrouni. The months of hard work which went into staging "Annie" showed in the polished performances, the lively singing and excellently choreographed dance routines. But all the rehearsals had nevertheless done nothing to blunt the edges of good, spontaneous acting, especially from the children who were the highlight of the musical.

Right from the beginning of the show, which opens with the girls moaning and groaning in the darkness of their dormitory, the children's performances burst with insuppressible energy and vitality.

Together they sing "Hard Knock Life" with infectious enthusiasm, while faultlessly performing quite complicated choreography involving buckets, mops and dusters. All of them were so good that any one of them could have been "Annie", the optimistic bundle of joy around which the story is wrapped.

Playing the actual "Annie" on opening night, however, was nine year old Stephanie Galliano. Sharing the role with Alicia Reynolds, Galliano, whether singing "Tomorrow" or turning cartwheels across the stage, managed to make an unbelievable character totally real. In a performance that was spontaneous (proved beautifully when trying to coax the reluctant dog "Sandy" played by the black and white and unreliable "Ginny" to do his bit) yet so polished, Stephanie caught and held the attention whenever she was on stage.

Memorable performances

Other good performances abounded.

Kay Mukhar as the drunken Miss Hannigan was also totally convincing. Hater of little girls, particularly "Annie", and lover of romantic radio soap operas, Mrs. Mukhar reeled about the stage, swigging from the bottle kept hidden in her sloppy cardigan, making the girls say they loved her after clipping them around the ears and making them get up at 4 a.m. to wash the floors. Although mean and vindictive, you could never really hate her. For Mrs. Mukhar makes her frustration and bitterness not only understandable and accessible but also very humorous. At one point, after learning that the billionaire Oliver Warbucks wants to adopt "Annie", Miss Hannigan, excuses herself and goes out into the street and screams — something we can all relate to. Along with Lily, played by the versatile Michele Reynolds, and Rooster, exceptionally well-portrayed by Adel Beshar, Mrs. Mukhar gave a lovely sleazy, fluid (in more than one sense of the word) rendition

of "Easy Street."

Another or rather two memorable performances came from Nabil Sawalha. As the ever smiling, totally in sincere Bert Healey, backed by the horrendous Boylan sisters deliciously portrayed by Michele Reynolds, Gwen Barton and Lexi Haddadin, selling toothpaste on the radio, Sawalha excels, while his similarity to Franklin Roosevelt is uncanny. The two main scenes in which Sawalha appears are perhaps amongst the most enjoyable of the show, due both to Sawalha's performances and to the fact those two scenes are full of lovely touches; the huge set of glistening cardboard teeth and the leopard skin outfits and pillbox hats of the Boylan Sisters, the way they sing from sheets of music which they rip off and send fluttering across the stage with alarming rapidity. And in the Roosevelt scene, the wonderful ice cream colours — shocking pink, lime green, and canary yellow — of the suits of the ministers (dubbed the "Crayola Cabinet" by one member of the audience, J.A. Murphy) and the way they just flop over, their heads hanging between their own knees in a jockey exaggerated expression of their despair over the mess of the Depression years.

Atmosphere of the period

The feeling of period is felt throughout the show in such obvious scenes as the witty "Hooverville" number, where the down and outs (Michele Reynolds, Tania El Nasser, Rani Kurdi and Maggie Kabarter) perform a wonderfully choreographed routine ("Thanks for Showing us how to dance Herbert Hoover") and all four point in different directions) and the marvellous "Rockettes" line up by the children. The feeling of the Depression years also comes across through the costumes, the music, the slide show and the set.

Under the musical direction of Michael Berridge, the seven piece orchestra gave both sensitive accompaniment when needed and a good full sound, intricate and

complex, remarkable of so small a group.

Artistic set

The set, designed by Sa'ad Batayneh, with its backdrop of skyscrapers whose windows twinkled in the dark, its black and white tiled floor of different levels, the huge mirrored wall and suspended column was quite a work of art.

The road running up the centre of the stage, which acted as a division between the rich and poor, the mansion and the orphanage, although a good idea, did not however seem to work very well theatrically as too much action seemed to take place on either side of the stage and not enough in the centre. The luxurious sense of space of the mansion was gained at the cost of the orphanage which was too cramped and small for all the action that took place in it.

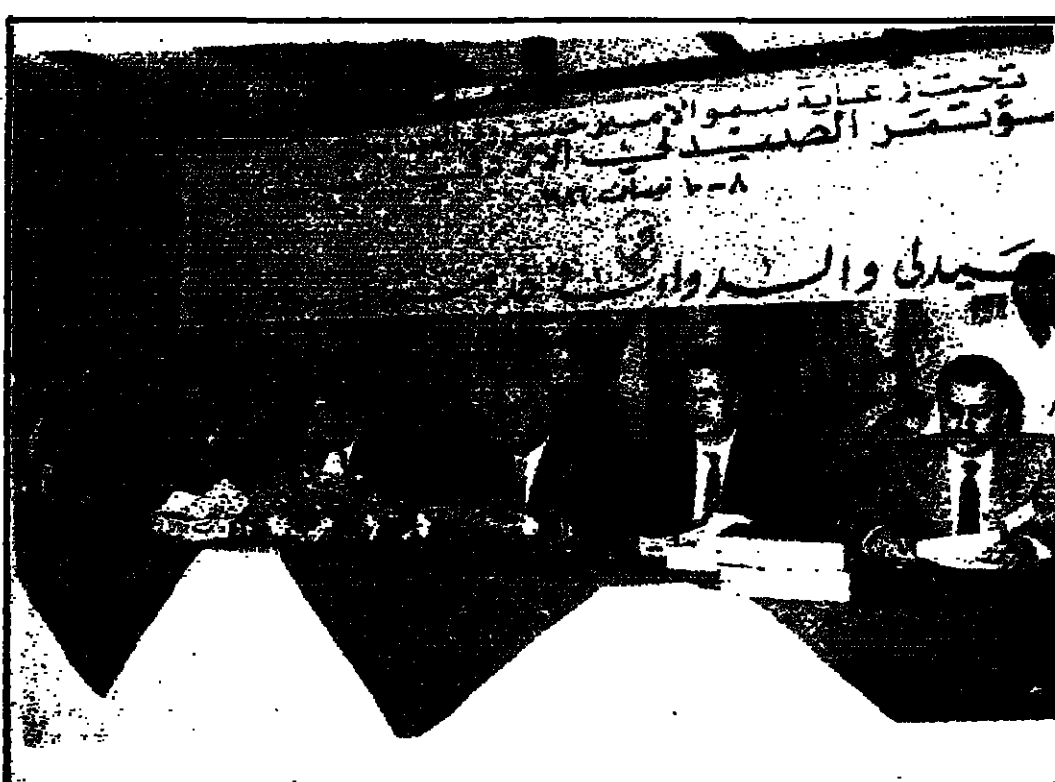
The only other criticism that perhaps one could make is that Daddy Warbucks, played a little stiffly, perhaps due to opening night nerves, by David Thompson, seemed to be won over by orphan "Annie" remarkably quickly. One felt there should have been more resistance from this hard bitten businessman. After all, he said he didn't care how he treated people on his way up the ladder of success as he wasn't going to go down again. Lack of time meant this side of the character couldn't be developed which if it had been would have helped strengthen the rather flimsy plot.

The show, which closes with an original and very effective curtain call where the actors make cameo poses in front of a dancing silhouette, remains a remarkable achievement. In a huge and ambitious project, Mrs. Batrouni has succeeded in getting professional performances from seasoned actors and raw amateurs alike. She has welded together with great insight and creativity colours, music, singing and dancing to produce an entertaining, funny, and absorbing evening that no-one will fail to enjoy.



'Annie', played by Stephanie Galliano, wins over Daddy Warbucks, (David Thompson) in a scene from 'Annie' (Photo Osman Alkuz)

هكذا مت الأمل



Minister of Higher Education Naseruddin Al Assad (centre), deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, attends the opening session of the third conference on pharmacy (Petra photo)

Lower House member meets U.S. Congress staffers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament member Rizk Batayneh Tuesday met with members of a U.S. Congress staffers delegation with whom he discussed the latest developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Batayneh, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the house, briefed the U.S. delegation on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause and efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement in the region.

A U.S. embassy spokesman told the Jordan Times that the Congress staffers were here "to get better informed about the Middle East."

During his meeting with the Congress staffers, Mr. Batayneh explained Israeli aggressive policies and its attempts to block efforts towards a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem. The spokesman also mentioned that Mr. Batayneh said that the United States should support the Palestinian cause and carry on with its aggressive policies.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Batayneh answered questions put forward by members of the delegation. Their visit is co-sponsored by the U.S. Council on American-Arab Relations and the World Affairs Council.

Arab, foreign envoys return from visit to Nuweibe'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A number of Arab and foreign ambassadors accredited to Jordan have been on a three-day trip to the Sinai peninsula where they were acquainted with the main sea resorts and historical sites in the area. The trip was organised by the Jordanian and Egyptian transport ministries in an effort to promote tourism between the two countries and movement on the Aqaba-Nuweibe' ferry link which was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and Sultan Qaboos on April 25, 1985.

The Nuweibe'-Aqaba route provides a sea link between Egypt and the Arab Mashrek and Maghreb and has reduced travel and transport expenses for passengers.

Nuweibe' itself has been modernised and is a port which serves the Jordanian and Egyptian vessels which shuttle between Nuweibe' and Aqaba.

The tour included visits to Nuweibe' monastery of Saint Catherine and Sharm Al Sheikh Bay in southern Sinai. The party of 57 diplomats, including their families, left Amman early Friday to board the ferry for a three-hour trip to Nuweibe'.

At Nuweibe' the special guests were received by representatives of the Egyptian foreign affairs and transport ministries and shipping and transport companies who later hosted a dinner for the diplomats on board the Egyptian ferry Al Hussein.

On Saturday, the party was taken by bus to the monastery of

St. Catherine which is located on the highest mountain in the Sinai peninsula. The diplomats viewed the granite mountains which characterise the southern strip of Sinai.

Overnight in Sharm Al Sheikh

After a tour of the monastery, named after St. Catherine who was beheaded by the Romans in the Fourth Century A.D. for advocating faith in Christianity, the party left for the charming sea resort of Sharm Al Sheikh.

The party spent one night in Sharm Al Sheikh where they enjoyed various water sports and the hospitality of their Egyptian hosts. They then returned to Nuweibe' to board the ferry back to Aqaba.

The trip was informative as much as it was enjoyable since the diplomats were able to get acquainted with the history of the area and the developments which have taken place since the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in 1981.

In general the ambassadors and other participants described the trip "wonderful and fascinating." They also praised the organisation which went into the trip and they all expressed special thanks to Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh and his wife for their efforts which contributed to the success of the trip.

Participants in the trip included Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, her two daughters and the ambassadors and charge d'Affaires of Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Chile, China, Hungary, India, Oman, Pakistan, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Assad opens third national conference on pharmacy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent has said that the government is giving due attention to pharmaceutical security in Jordan and is continuing its efforts on the Arab and international levels to raise the standard of the pharmacy profession in the Kingdom.

In a speech delivered on his behalf by Minister of Higher Education Nasereddine Al Assad at the opening of the third Jordanian pharmacy conference in Amman, Prince Hassan said that in the course of its endeavours to introduce reform and improvement, the Health Ministry now plans to amend the pharmacy law to cope with new developments.

Jordan, through cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Arab countries and through coordination among various pharmacists and their unions, has succeeded in reaching a respected standard in its pharmaceutical industry, the minister said.

The private and the public sectors in Jordan have cooperated and set up a number of pharmaceutical industries and the Ministry of Health has established a laboratory to control the production of drugs and medicines, the minister pointed out. He said that the Health Ministry strives to make available all types of drugs and medicines at its hospitals and

health centres to be dispensed to members of the public at nominal prices. It has also introduced measures to control the production, consumption, imports and prices of medicines in the market, Dr. Assad added.

Jordan, the minister continued, supports the establishment of an Arab pharmaceutical union and hopes to further contribute to the development of the Arab pharmaceutical industry. He also paid tribute to the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPA), which is organising the conference, for its efforts in upgrading the standard of pharmacists and their profession in the country.

Another speaker at the opening session was Mr. Ahmad Al Hafez, secretary general of the Arab Pharmacists Union, who underlined the role of pharmacists in improving the health of the community. Since its establishment, the union has been striving to contribute towards promoting health standards in the Arab World and to help Arab countries achieve integration and self-sufficiency in

medicine and drugs, Mr. Hafez said. He also paid tribute to the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry and praised the stand of Arab pharmacists under Israeli rule.

JPA President Ghaleb Sabbarini made a speech to the opening session in which he reviewed the development of the Arab Pharmacists Union which he said was established in 1966 at a general meeting held in Arab Jerusalem. Mr. Sabbarini said that Arab pharmacists send their greetings to their brothers under Israeli rule.

Mr. Mohammad Hosni Sader, chairman of a committee which prepared for the conference, made a speech thanking Prince Hassan for patronising the conference and he spoke about the themes of the working papers which will be reviewed by the delegates. These papers, he said, deal with the types of imported or locally produced medicines, doctors' prescriptions, licensing of new pharmacies and drug stores, the pricing and marketing drugs and cooperation in pharmaceutical and medical matters with the Ministry of Health in addition to the role pharmacists can play in promoting health education.

Nearly 460 pharmacists from Jordan and Arab countries, including 111 pharmacy students, are taking part in the conference.

Jordanian industrial fair opens in Tunis

TUNIS (J.T.) — A Jordanian industrial fair was opened in Tunis Tuesday by the Tunisian minister of national economy. The fair is exhibiting the national products of 45 Jordanian businesses and a total of \$1 million worth of products will be allowed to be sold directly to the Tunisian public. Jordanian businessmen may also draw up contracts to sell more products during the fair, which is expected to last 10 days, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

In a speech at the opening of the fair, the Tunisian minister, Mr. Rashid Sagr, called on Arab countries to try to achieve economic integration through cooperation in industry and trade. He also praised Jordanian industries which, he said, are trying to open new markets in Arab countries. The minister also said that Tunisia will offer its help to make the fair successful.

Another speech was made on the occasion by Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia, Mr. Talal Al Hassan, who presented the Tunisian minister with a token gift.

Plastic and chemical products, cosmetics, scents, furniture, agricultural and engineering materials are all being displayed at the fair which has been organised by the Trade Centres Corporation.

Congress on Jordan's history, archaeology continues at University of Tübingen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deliberations at the third conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan continued on Tuesday at the West German University of Tübingen with research and working papers presented by eminent historians and archaeologists.

Over 120 archaeologists, historians and other scholars from around the world are taking part in the five-day gathering which opened on Monday.

"Trade, communications and foreign relations up to the Ottoman period" is the theme of the conference, the third to date in a series of congresses on different aspects of Jordanian history and archaeology.

Monday's opening session was dedicated to speeches by key participants including the inaugurating speech which was read on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Iba Zaid. In his address, the Crown Prince paid tribute to the participants and to the University of Tübingen.

The West German university, the Crown Prince said, is considered the most eligible scientific centre to host the conference since it has had a long record in Orientalist studies and research since its establishment over 150 years ago.

The Crown Prince referred to the Middle East atlas, a project being prepared by Tübingen Uni-

versity, and said the atlas when completed is bound to provide extremely valuable geographic, historic, political and economic data and information.

The Crown Prince also reviewed the first and second conferences on Jordan which were held in the British University of Oxford and in Amman. The conferences are held every two or three years alternately in Jordan and abroad.

In recent years many scholars have changed their views following a series of historic finds in the Kingdom. The Crown Prince pointed out.

Wednesday's morning session will discuss Jordan during the Hellenistic, Roman, Nabataean and Byzantine Periods, when the land seems to have reached the peak of its historical development.

Papers will include presentations by Dr. Fawzi Zayadine (Jordan) on the stucco decoration and painting at Petra and other Hellenistic sites; by Dr. Andreas Achmidt-Colinet (West Germany) on possible links between Petra and the Nabataean family of sculptors at Medain Saleh, in northern Arabia; by Dr. S. Tom Parker (USA) on the Roman fortified frontier zone in Jordan; by father Michele Piccirillo (Italy) on the Jerusalem-Esbus road and its sanctuaries in Transjordan and other key papers on Jordan during the eras up to Ottoman rule.

Bush: U.S. is pursuing new initiative

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Shimon Peres. During his visit to Washington last week, Peres asked Secretary of State George Shultz to step up the United States' role in the peace process.

In Kuwait, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat told the United States in remarks published on Tuesday it could not continue to ignore Palestinian rights in the search for Middle East peace.

"The U.S. must understand that the PLO still exists and the number of Palestinians is too difficult to be ignored," he said in interviews reported by the Kuwait Times and Al Anba.

In a separate interview with the Kuwaiti weekly Al Mujtamaa, Mr. Arafat charged that the United States and Israel were trying "to liquidate the PLO and to cancel the Palestinian factor from the Middle East equation."

He told the dailies that Egypt and Iraq were seeking to mediate a rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan, which has terminated political coordination with the PLO leadership.

(In Dhahran, King Fahd told Mr. Bush that Saudi Arabia was also trying to reestablish a working relationship between the PLO and Jordan, USIA reported.)

The king also told the vice president that he will remain personally involved in trying to reestablish this relationship, in the wake of his recent meeting with Mr. Arafat. He also suggested that there may be a forthcoming meeting with King Hussein, USIA said.

Mr. Arafat reiterated recent calls for an Arab summit. "The fate of the Arab Nation is at stake,

and the Arab leaders must sink their differences," he said.

He said members of the PLO Executive Committee, the central committee of Fateh, and the Palestine National Council decided at a meeting in Baghdad recently to open a new chapter in the PLO's long-strained relations with Syria.

Palestinian and Syrian officials had held several meetings recently to try to heal rifts between the two sides, he said, but conceded they had yet to produce major positive results.

In his remarks to Al Mujtamaa he denied "Western and Zionist media allegations" that the Palestinian resistance aimed at creating a secular Palestine state.

"What we want is a democratic state in which Muslims, Christians and Jews live in justice and without discrimination, according to the principles of Islam," he said.

Mr. Bush's disclosure of a new Middle East initiative coincided with renewed European efforts to push the peace process forward.

More European involvement in the search for Middle East peace was mooted in talks in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president and West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jeurgens Moelmann.

The Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan and Mr. Moelmann discussed the need for a European-Arab dialogue that would help bring this about.

In later talks with his UAE counterpart, Rashid Abdullah, Mr. Moelmann said any proposals drawn up by the European Community (EC) would have to take into account Palestinian representation in peace talks, WAM said.

Mr. Moelmann arrived in Abu Dhabi Monday night from Qatar on a three-day visit as part of a Gulf tour.

In The Hague, the Dutch Foreign Minister said Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek will visit Syria on Wednesday as part of a programme of "quiet diplomacy" by the EC in the Middle East.

Mr. Van den Broek, current president of the community's council of ministers, was asked by his community colleagues in February to contact parties to the Middle East conflict and see if Europe could help the peace process.

He will meet Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara' during his two-day visit to Damascus and might also see President Hafez Al Assad, a ministry official said.

Mr. Van den Broek had talks with King Hussein in Amman last month.

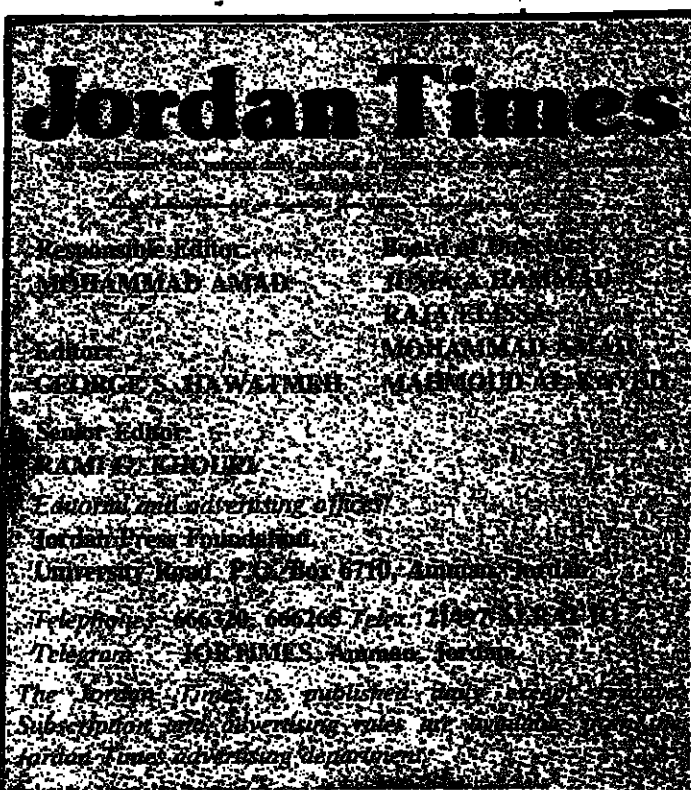
The minister's spokeswoman said contact was also being made with the PLO through the Dutch ambassador in Tunis.

Peres said on Tuesday Israel recognised Palestinians as a people and called on them to enter peace talks with the Jewish state.

"We say to the Palestinian people, we recognise you as a people," Peres said in a speech to open the national convention of his Labour Party.

"You will not get us to bend through terror and we have no intention of trying to make you bend by war. The way is only through dialogue," he said.

Peres said Israel was willing to consider an "interim solution" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel would continue to seek a handover of municipal rule to Palestinians, he said.



Knot to untie in initiative

THE U.S. vice president, Mr. George Bush, yesterday spoke of a new American initiative to try to bring peace to the Middle East. He told a press conference in Bahrain that he was not at liberty to disclose details about the initiative, but the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, Mr. Richard Murphy, arrived in Israel soon afterwards as a "signal" that the U.S. was again taking up an active pursuit of some solution.

We do not want to sound like the prophets of doom on this new move by the U.S. We hope that indeed it will be a promising step to revive the stalled peace process. But, at the same time, one has to be sceptical, especially when it might not be any fundamental change in their political outlook towards this area that the Americans are trying to effect as a way of moving the peace process forward.

For the U.S. to reassume playing the leading role in starting a meaningful peace process in the Middle East, the Reagan administration has to be not only innovative and serious but also an honest and impartial broker. We have seen how all past U.S. attempts to start any peace process have foundered on the harder realities of this area's politics, and we even claim to know why. Nevertheless, we have always maintained that Washington could and should fulfil its responsibility towards Arab-Israeli peace by just being even-handed in the conflict and ready to help in prodding the parties towards an acceptable solution.

To our mind, the new U.S. initiative could contribute to that end, but only if it projects a new, deeper understanding of the reality in the Middle East and the Palestinian problem in particular. The initiative will be useless, however, if it is just a restatement of the same old positions in a new form or a new language.

Messrs Bush and Murphy, among many experienced and knowledgeable politicians in the Reagan administration, know exactly what it takes to move the Middle East peace process forward. They know the knot around which the search for a just and lasting settlement halted, and they know, we bet, how to untie it. All the elements that the U.S. needs to make its new initiative work are there. Missing is only America's political will to talk the Israelis into moderating their obstinate policy towards the Palestinians.

There is very little time to waste, and we hope that the Americans have accounted for that in thinking about and propagating their new initiative.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The key to Mideast peace

A joint statement issued in Amman and Jakarta following King Hussein's visit to Indonesia reflects the keenness of both sides on achieving a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This means that the Arab and Muslim people want to have real peace which cannot be achieved without the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The joint statement referred to the basic principles of such peace and demanded a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab lands occupied since 1967. The statement made it clear that the Palestine problem constituted the central issue of the whole Arab-Israeli conflict and the realisation of the Palestinian people's rights is of vital necessity if peace is to be achieved. Despite the fact that right is on our side, nothing has been achieved to end the conflict, and the Israelis continue efforts to bolster their hold on our land. Monday's air raid on Palestinian camps in South Lebanon is another evidence that the Zionists are determined to pursue their evil goals, backed in their endeavours by the United States. In view of the situation there can be no alternative to mobilising Arab and Islamic forces and to the unification of ranks and strengthening of power to end Israel's arrogance. There can be no rest and no peace with the continuation of aggression and occupation.

Al Dustour: Bush beating around the bush

AMERICAN Vice President George Bush stated in Saudi Arabia that his country was keen on maintaining stability and security in the Gulf region and also on the continued flow of oil to the West. We would have liked to hear a statement exactly defining the cause of instability and lack of peace in the whole Middle East region, because that would clearly point to Israel. The Israelis, backed by the United States, are indeed the source of all problems in our region and continued Israeli occupation constitutes a grave danger and a source of tension to the whole area. We would have liked Mr. Bush to stop beating around the bush and state clearly what has been causing tension in this region and how real solutions to the problem can end this tension. Of course, the Gulf war causes danger to the region's stability and continues to endanger the future of all countries living in it, but the United States have done very little towards ending the conflict and allowing the Arabs and the Iranians to live in peace. We would like to remind the United States that security in the Gulf is part and parcel of the security of the whole Arab region, and that as we are concerned about the Gulf war, the Gulf countries are worried about the situation in the occupied Arab lands and Israel's continued aggression on neighbouring countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's doomsday nears

WE are not surprised by the new political crisis inside Israel because the whole Israeli society is so complicated and is falling apart. The new crisis reflects social and economic imbalances within the Jewish state which was established on land it does not own and at the expense and on the suffering of the Palestinian people. This Israeli state is an artificial society built through intrigues and founded over the remains of demolished Arab homes, bearing all seeds of decay and serving as a time bomb that can go off any minute. Political and economic crises in Israel are not a novelty but they surface from time to time to underline the fact that this society is bound to collapse because it has no strong foundation. Continued American financial and military aid to Israel can by no means allow this aggressive state to survive for long and can not end the contradictions that have begun to emerge in a most conspicuous manner. Israel's society is made of a weak fabric that can easily be damaged by the slightest shock and the economic and political crises that have emerged now inside Israel could be the early signs of collapse.

Waging war on the economic front

By Riad Khouri

WAR in the traditional sense among the great or near-great powers is no longer possible. It just isn't feasible for troops armed with nuclear weapons to go striding into enemy territory. Whatever their differences, the Americans and the Soviets are not about to bomb each other, nor will China invade Japan or West Germany march into France.

Of course violence in the Third World is still unfortunately very much with us. Civil and not-so civil wars are raging in the Middle East and elsewhere, sometimes with the direct support or at the instigation of the rich industrialised states. But the big boys themselves do not usually wage war these days, at least not with guns and tanks. Today's warfare is instead often conducted on a purely economic level. It's much less noisy but nevertheless of great importance, both to the great power blocs as well as the Third World.

A dramatic example of this phenomenon has been the on-and-off wheat war being fought between the U.S. and the European Community (EC). In the days before the Second World War, agricultural and mineral production was associated with colonies or other areas in Asia,

Africa and Latin America. Their output was shipped to the rich north in exchange for manufactured goods which could not be produced in the less developed south of the globe. Today's pattern of international trade has shifted; the dismal fact remains that, with the exception of a handful of commodities, the North produces most things more cheaply and sells them to a Third World which is inefficient and otherwise reckless. The latter in turn often piles up debt, like Mexico and Brazil, or is plunged into one form or another of chaos, as in Chad and Kampuchea.

Outside of East Asia — where people prefer rice — wheat and related grains are without exaggeration the world's most important source of food. The EC and the Americans have been among the big exporters of wheat for sometime now. Both areas produce a vast surplus of grain. They have to get rid of it somehow, and both have been trying to export the stuff with increasing ferocity — hence the wheat conflict.

Over two decades ago the same producers were embroiled in a chicken war, with large numbers of mass-produced frozen birds

coming on to the international market. The last ten years have seen a cars and electronics conflict being fought by Japan against Europe and the U.S. The wheat war is simply the latest form of economic competition among the rich industrialised states, a conflict in which it is inconceivable that a single shot will be fired.

The United States and Europe produce all kinds of agricultural commodities using very sophisticated techniques in genetic engineering, electronics and other high technology areas. They also produce on a large scale. Of course this picture is not one of unmitigated cheer. Both the Americans and the EC have problems in their agricultural sectors. U.S. farmers are going through a crisis, while agricultural policy is a source of bitter conflict among EC members. Still, enormous amounts of food in general and grain in particular are available in both areas for export. And the richer these countries get, the more they produce. But prosperous folk tend to spend a decreasing percentage of their incomes on food, and so the surpluses get bigger and bigger.

Where does all this excess production go? To the Soviet Union

for one, where whatever else communism may have achieved since 1917, food production is still not enough for the country's needs. A bit of surplus agricultural commodities ends up in areas of war and crisis as humanitarian aid, but these amounts are really quite unimportant.

Increasingly, EC and American food is being sold to the Third World, and the Middle East and North Africa in particular. On the surface this should be good news for everybody; the rich countries unload their surplus and the poor benefit from cheap food. Unfortunately the picture is a bit more complicated. For a start, the Europeans and the Americans both complain loudly about the others encroaching on their traditional markets. The French for example like to think of Algeria as theirs as far as trade is concerned, but increased American commercial activity in and exports to the country have been disabusing France of this notion. In the Middle East, Egypt imports a lot of grain from France, but here too the Americans have been moving in strongly. The U.S. now supplies the wheat and flour for two-thirds of the bread consumed in Egypt

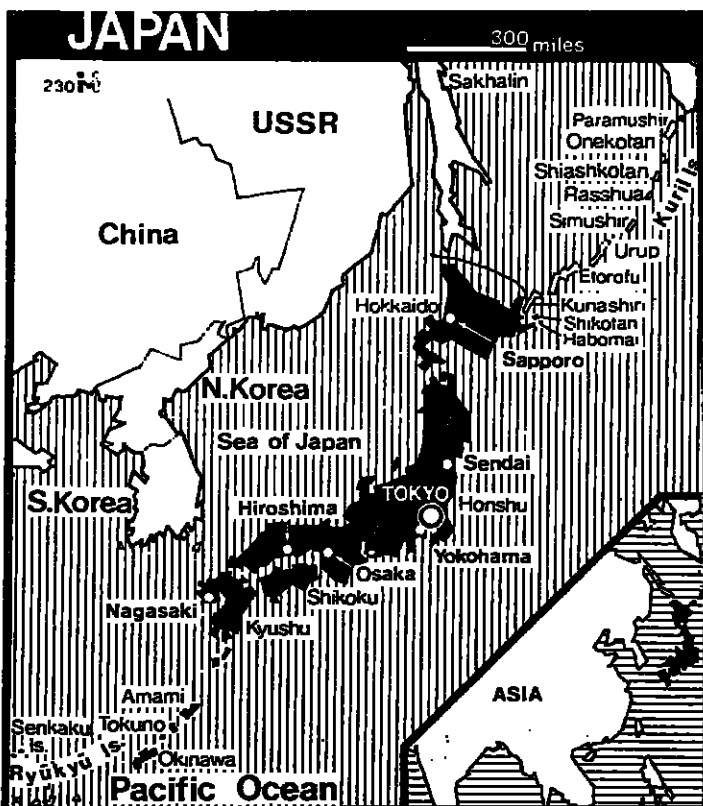
annually, and this is incensing the Europeans. Former French minister Jacques Delors was quoted last year as saying that it is "unthinkable" for the EC "to renounce its position as a green power" drawing comparison with the "Arab countries giving up the extraction of oil." The Europeans seem to have hit back by pushing American wheat and fodder out of the Spanish and Portuguese markets to the point where the U.S. is now threatening the EC with tariff and quota reprisals.

And so it goes. The trade conflict in general and the food war in particular will probably continue to intensify, with more surplus wheat and other products flooding international markets while politicians and bureaucrats on both sides of the Atlantic hurl abuse at each other. But what about the recipients of this bounty? Shouldn't hungry people in Ethiopia or poor peasants in Pakistan be happy to get cheap wheat and other foodstuffs from the rich? Yes, up to a point. However, one of the unfortunate side-effects of the wheat war may be the weakening of the rural sector in the Third World. Unable to compete with cheap imports, farmers flee the land to urban areas. The

countryside stagnates and cities become overcrowded, unpleasant and inefficient. Meanwhile the supplier of foreign food gains a stranglehold over the Third World importer; the shortest way to the mind and heart of a starving Sudanese or a less hungry Egyptian may be through his stomach.

Self-sufficiency in food is uneconomic in a lot of places; but this doesn't mean that the rush away from the Third World countryside should continue. The Middle East in particular suffers from the resulting lopsided development, with cities mushrooming at the expense of a stagnant rural sector. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other countries in our region are using various methods including subsidies and regional planning to encourage farming and rural settlement. Such activities have met with some success, but a lot more needs to be done. If not, the alternative will be further rural disruption, urban difficulties and most of all a terrible dependence on food imports.

Riad Khouri is a Beirut-based economic consultant. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



Japan wants a bigger voice in world affairs

By Eric Hall
Rouer

TOKYO — Japan is pressing for a bigger role in world affairs, complaining that while it sits on the councils of the mighty its voice is weak and seldom heard.

Japanese officials say the nation's influence is unequal to its economic might and is not commensurate with the demands the Western powers are making on its patience and resources.

It wants greater diplomatic and managerial power in the United Nations, in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and in the World Bank, they said.

Since last September's pact by the group of five industrial nations to depress the overvalued U.S. dollar and reduce Japan's huge trade surplus, Tokyo has played a key role in implementing the deal at the expense of its own economy.

Yet protectionist trade rhetoric still jars in the ears of senior Japanese officials who see themselves as frontline troops in the battle to smooth out the world's distorted economy.

Patience is wearing thin among men at the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan who say they engineered the dramatic fall of the dollar against the yen over the last six months and tried to open Japan's difficult market to the world.

There are also signs of dissatisfaction in the powerful business lobby which suffers most from the cut in exports that a lower trade surplus demands.

Nationalism is rarely mentioned in public since the Japanese renounced their military power to the Western allies at the end of World War Two.

But many industrialists are the men who helped rebuild the destroyed nation and they are deeply patriotic. They are beginning to sense an unfairness in constant Western demands for Japan to open further, faster.

"Japan is being asked to do a lot of things as part of the responsibility of a world power. On the other hand, we don't have a voice. Do you really then need military power to be a real power?" asked the head of one major corporation, who preferred not to be identified.

The issue is highly sensitive but is reflected in statistics.

Japan's quota, or membership fee, equals about five per cent of

IMF funds but it has only two per cent of its professional staff. This compares with the 20 per cent quota and 25 per cent of the staff for the United States.

"Our representation at the IMF staff level is quite limited, we are now pressing for an increase," a ministry official said.

The World Bank employs 51 Japanese professionals out of 3,175, compared with 803 Americans and 340 British. Yet Japan is the bank's second largest shareholder after the United States and it provides about 20 per cent, the biggest slice, of the money the bank lends needy countries.

Japan believes its different experience of economic development would add to the largely Western-based philosophy of the bank.

Tokyo is assessed third after Washington and Moscow for U.N. contributions and is the second biggest provider of U.N. funds if voluntary contributions are included.

The main grumble from Japanese officials involved in international forums is against overriding U.S. power, and against the tendency of the European nations to band together.

"Whenever important policies appear, Europeans tend to get together to have their voice heard. Europeans are a bit smarter than the Japanese at the moment," said the bank official. He added Europeans voted through the bank's special sub-Saharan development funding facility in this way.

European diplomats in Tokyo say Japan also believes the annual seven-nation summits are too heavy with European representation, from Britain, West Germany, France and Italy.

Japanese officials objected to the added presence at this May's Tokyo summit of Dutch leader Ruud Lubbers, attending as current head of the European Community. They were overruled by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japanese sources said.

The United States, Britain, West Germany and France have also blocked increased Japanese voting power in the IMF and World Bank, complained one senior Trade Ministry director.

Japan feels its prestige also suffers from not being a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. This would require a change in the postwar U.N. charter banning the defeated Japan and West Germany from the council.

Multiple world problems face Non-Aligned Movement summit

By Darko Silovic

The writer heads a department in the Yugoslav Federal Foreign Secretariat

THE MINISTERIAL meeting of the non-aligned countries' Coordinating Bureau is to convene in New Delhi between April 16 and 19, its main task being to carry out preparations for the VIII Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries, late in August and early in September this year. Meetings of this kind are convened in accord with the decisions on the Coordinating Bureau's mandate passed at the V and VI Summits, stating that the Bureau shall meet at foreign ministerial level or at the level of special government envoys "during the year of the Summit, but prior to the latter." The first meeting of this kind was held in Colombo in 1979 pending the Havana Summit, and the second in Havana in 1982 pending the Delhi Summit.

The purpose of this meeting is of course primarily to prepare for the ensuing summit. These are not only technical and organisational preparations, which are largely made by the host country, but also preparations concerning the political content and principal tasks of the pending top-level meeting of the non-aligned countries.

It is expected that the agenda of the VIII Summit will be drafted in New Delhi. This draft, following procedure to date, is tabled by the host of the summit and this will be the first assignment of Zimbabwe in its new and responsible role. What is important is that the agenda facilitate and guide the work of the Summit in considering all major international problems of interest to the non-aligned countries. Basically these are the same questions which featured prominently at the non-aligned countries' Ministerial Meeting in Luanda (Angola) last September and concerning which the non-aligned countries continued their activities during the fortieth jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly.

As is generally known the non-aligned countries represent two thirds of the international community's members and their interest is centred on general conditions in the world, peace, security, disarmament and détente with special stress on relations between the big powers. After the dialogue between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was resumed, and most particularly after the top-level meeting of these two countries leaders, President Reagan and the Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party Gorbachev, there are definite indications that the stage of dangerous confrontation between the two powers has been transcended and that both have realised it vital to review and resolve differences through direct contacts. What is more, a developed negotiation system has been established, in which there will be talks not only on disarmament but also on many other issues, including regional problems.

There is no doubt that such developments have had considerable influence on the general state of international relations and that there are now prospects of easing détente and resolving the most outstanding world issues. Already in Luanda the non-aligned countries applauded the process of negotiation between the great powers thus confirming the con-

tinuity of their efforts to have world problems settled through negotiation and not confrontation. It is likewise their wish that within this process there should be opportunity for the equitable participation of all nations, especially those whose interests are immediately involved. The non-aligned countries appreciate the special responsibility of the great powers and look to them for concrete measures, above all in disarmament, thus contributing to broader détente. However, they also expect every right to be participants in this process and not only observers. The Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau will be an occasion, in the light of the latest developments in relations between the great powers and the significant new plans in the sphere of disarmament, to evaluate the present state of affairs and determine the non-aligned countries' action trends so that they will be able to contribute to creating conditions which will improve the world situation.

The other set of problems to which the policy and movement of non-alignment attaches priority in preparations for the VIII Summit at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in New Delhi concerns international economic relations. Conditions in the world economy, particularly the deteriorating position of the non-aligned and other developing countries are one of the main political problems of our times, which is menacing the independence and security of many of these countries. At the Ministerial Conference in Luanda economic issues enjoyed great prominence and were discussed with probably the greatest comprehensiveness to date. This applies in particular to the debts of the developing countries. A special resolution was passed on this issue, stressing that debts had become not only an economic but also a political problem which as such must be resolved with the cooperation and concerted efforts of both debtors and creditors.

However, the situation in international economic relations has not changed since Luanda. The modicum of economic recovery in some developed countries of the West has not been established and is still being effected by shifting the burden of inflation and payments deficit, hand in hand with trade barriers, to the developing countries. The North-South dialogue, stalemated for years, is still at deadlock, although there are indications that some of the developed countries have realised that there can be no complete recovery of the world economy and no stabilisation of the market and no repayment of debts without the accelerated development of the developing countries. The sudden drop in petroleum prices is yet another indicator of the chaos prevailing on the world market, especially in raw materials.

Therefore the Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi will have to review the current situation, and then, giving due consideration to the decisions of the Luanda Conference and the activities of non-aligned and other developing countries at the fortieth U.N. General Assembly session, determine joint action trends in the future in order to implement a dialogue with the developed countries and resolve the world's most formidable economic problems. After New Delhi these countries will have to engage themselves directly at the special U.N. General Assembly session on the critical economic situation

in Africa, in accord with the decisions of the XXI Summit of the Organisation of African Unity and the Ministerial Conference in Luanda. In the context of the debt problem, what is important is to strive to promote cooperation among the debtor countries and carry on with efforts to convene an international conference on money and finance for development, as international finance and the debt problem are closely linked with each other.

There are also many other economic questions drawing the attention of the non-aligned countries pending the Ministerial Meeting, and the Summit in Harare. First of all there is the issue of trade and the growing tendency towards protectionism, especially in conjunction with the suggestion to convene a new round of multilateral trade talks within GATT; then there is the question of drawing up a global plan of trade preferences among the developing countries, monetary and financial cooperation among the non-aligned, the problem of scientific-technological development and the danger of the developing countries' lag in this crucial field.

This stark list, without entering into details and branches as would be natural in economics, goes to show that the non-aligned countries convened in Delhi will have to consider a long and meaningful agenda and cope with formidable tasks.

The third field, for reasons of systematic presentation in the written text, though not by importance, is the one covering troublespots among which the one in the African South is undoubtedly of top-priority. The more and more threatening situation in that part of the world, the new quality in the black majority population's resistance to the apartheid regime in the South Africa, which is nothing but legalised racial discrimination and intolerable exploitation based on the forcibly imposed colour bar make it incumbent upon the entire international community to strive for the liquidation of this hotbed of injustice and aggression. The South African Republic's continuing unlawful occupation of Namibia, its refusal to honour the decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council have further compounded the crisis in that part of the world. Ever since it was founded, the Non-Aligned Movement included among its priorities the struggle against colonialism and racism and support to liberation movements. It will now again emphatically point up its demand for the liquidation of such a state of affairs, for Namibia to be granted independence and for the delayed implementation of U.N. Resolution 435 with no strings attached, and for the eradication of apartheid. The Ministerial Meeting in Delhi and especially the summit in Harare must be determined stages in this direction.

Other crisis spots in the world are also among the main preoccupations of the Non-Aligned Movement which has long proffered and elaborated the fundamental principles on which to base political solutions, namely self-determination, the withdrawal of all foreign troops, the right to independence, nations own road of development and no foreign interference. These principles can and must be applied to the situation in the Middle East

and to the Palestinian question which is becoming more complicated, to Central America where the countries of the Contadora Group and the Latin American states supporting them recently came up with new proposals at the meeting in Caraballeda, to Afghanistan and Kampuchea where there are still no signs of change, to Cyprus, Korea and all other points where the freedom of nations and the territorial integrity of countries are being menaced.

Another problem to which the non-aligned countries will have to devote the utmost attention at their meeting in New Delhi is the Iran-Iraq war. This conflict which has been dragging on for years now is a weary load to the Movement, to its unity and action ability. It is absurd that two non-aligned countries should find it impossible to stop the war and approach a peaceable solution, while at the same time both are dissatisfied with the activities of the Movement, constantly demanding that it engage in greater efforts. The serious dispute between these two countries must be settled, and at their meeting in New Delhi the non-aligned countries will give the closest attention to this issue. It would be regrettable if what happened in Luanda were to be repeated, namely that the document of Delhi should say nothing about the war between the two non-aligned countries, while this issue dominates the general debate and represents the preoccupation of all.

A subject which will be inevitably discussed in New Delhi at the Ministerial Meeting is the position of the United Nations in international relations, especially in the light of the pressure to which the world organisation was exposed during the XI session, seeking to restrict its role as a forum for negotiation and decision-making based on the sovereign equality of all its member-states.

The United Nations has an irreplaceable role in the democratisation of international relations. The non-aligned countries do not oppose more rational work procedure, more rational budgetary spending and more economic programmes, but they emphatically want the United Nations to be a genuine forum for negotiation and the resolution of major international problems, they want the world organisation to adjust to changes in the world, changes which have taken place since the United Nations was founded.

Finally it should be stressed that the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau is the last high level meeting of non-aligned countries in India during the latter's term of office as coordinator. Naturally this will be an occasion to pay tribute to India's exceptional efforts and her success in the capacity of Coordinator during this arduous period. Although India will formally be handing over its duties in Harare, this country has every right to expect that the non-aligned countries do appreciate the fact that India agreed to play host to the non-aligned Summit and assume the duties of Coordinator at a critical moment, that India strengthened the movement and affirmed its independence, global and extrabloc role in international relations — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

Wild fires in rain forests blacken tropical horizons

By Joy Aschenbach
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — It may be the biggest forest fire on record — certainly one of the worst environmental disasters of the century — burning out of control from January to June 1983, destroying more than 8.6 million acres on the island of Borneo.

And it occurred where no one thought it could ever happen: a rain forest.

Once considered immune to burning, the world's already shrinking tropical forests are now threatened with a new danger — wildfires.

What sparked the 1983 blaze in an isolated area of East Kalimantan, in the Indonesian portion of Borneo, is still not fully known.

But Indonesian government officials and environmentalists believe several forces, natural and human, combined to touch off such devastation: a rare prolonged drought, the effects of logging operations in the forest, and slash-and-burn land-clearing methods along its fringes.

Logging encourages fire

Logged rain forests, even when timber is selectively harvested, are more vulnerable to fire. Cutting down trees opens up some of the forest canopy, drying out places that were once dripping wet. Crude paths and roads cleared for logging provide a route for the rapid spread of fire. Often sloppy logging practices, which leave wood debris on the forest floor, add fuel for the fire.

In some places in the eastern Amazon area of Brazil, about 40 per cent of the canopy has been lost to logging, reports botanist Christopher Uhl of Pennsylvania State University. When grazing land adjacent to a logged rain forest is burned for weed control, fire

frequently spreads into the forest. "It is really striking. A pasture fire will stop at the edge of a virgin, unlogged rain forest and die out," says Uhl, who has spent eight years in the Amazon basin.

Logging is expected to increase in the Brazilian Amazon during the next 20 years, Uhl says, putting even more rain forests in a fire-prone condition. In the northern part of the vast state of Para, he visited 15 cattle ranches with logging operations and found that the forests on more than half had caught fire shortly after being cut.

When the Brazilian government offered financial incentives to develop cattle-ranching on a large scale in the Amazon, it required that half of each landholding be reserved in virgin forest.

But when ranching eventually failed to be profitable, ranchers started exploiting their timber resources, selling logging rights on virgin tracts. Enforcement of the "50-per cent" law was generally ignored.

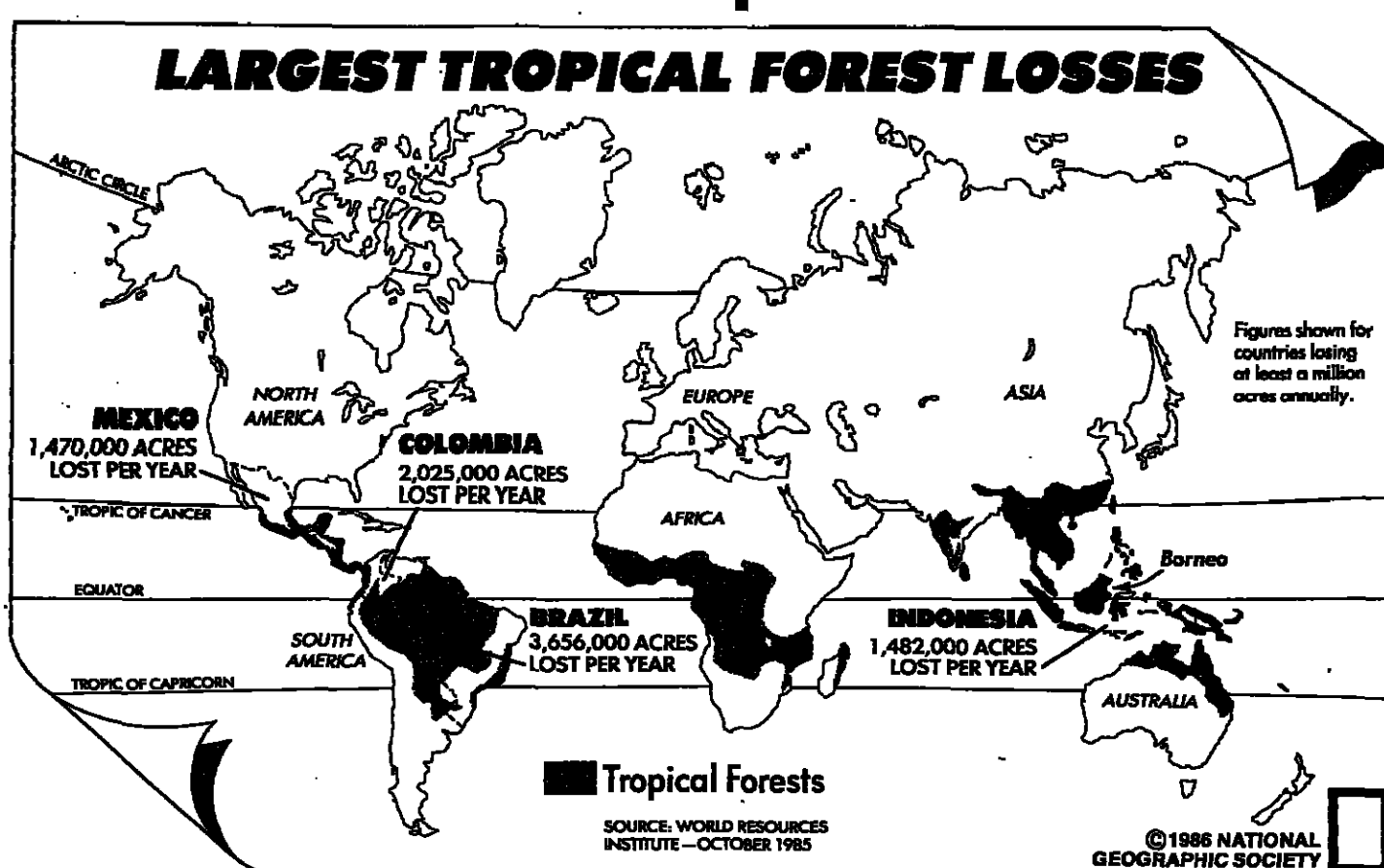
Wasteful cutting widespread

Often more trees are cut than are actually harvested, Uhl says. "Thousands of square kilometres of cut-up forest end up scarred with bulldozer tracks and littered with dead slash," he says.

Ranchers also have relied more heavily on the less expensive method of controlling pasture weeds, burning them, rather than hand-cutting them with machetes or spraying with herbicides.

The relatively new phenomenon of a fire-resistant ecosystem becoming fire-prone compounds the stresses on the world's tropical forests, which are the habitat for an estimated 50 per cent of the earth's plant and animal species.

An international task force reported in late 1985 that more than 27 million acres of tropical forests



— an area larger than Austria — are lost each year. The single greatest factor in forest destruction is the spread of agriculture, which includes raising livestock as well as crops, according to the task force convened by the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and the World Resources Institute.

At this rate, more than a half-billion acres will be cleared by the year 2000. An estimated 40 per cent of tropical moist forests already have been cleared, logged, or degraded. Most of the remaining 2 billion acres are in the Amazon and Congo Basins, surviving primarily because of their vastness

and inaccessibility.

To begin to reverse the tremendous tropical deforestation, the international group estimates that \$8 billion in public and private funds will be needed in the next five years, twice as much as is being invested currently. About \$5.3 billion would be directed to the 56 most critically affected countries.

There is still time to save the rain forests, according to the task force, whose "Call to Action" optimistically points out that there were more acres of forests in developed countries in 1985 than there were in 1900.

Botanist Uhl's research in the

Brazilian Amazon, supported in part by the National Geographic Society, has focused on finding ways to restore rain forests that were turned into pasture land. He concludes that land subjected to five to 10 years of cattle grazing will not regenerate on its own to a rain forest. There are too many natural impediments.

Seeds have tough time

Few seeds from adjacent rain forests are dispersed by wind, so few reach the pasture. Only small seeds have a good chance of being carried out of the forest. And they have a tough time surviving in the open.

"Even when we place seeds out there and watch them intensely, they disappear," says Uhl's assistant, Dan Nepstad. "We put out 250 seeds of one species, and within 24 hours every one was removed by ants." He and Uhl are following the fate of at least 22,000 seeds of 11 forest species.

Seeds that survive the initial assault of ants and mice face heat, drier soil, drought, and if they sprout, attacks by leaf-cutting ants.

The outlook is not this grim for most pasture land, which is quickly used and abandoned, the researchers say. Enough rootstock remains, and it can become a rain forest again on its own.

Vermont homeless symptom of growing U.S. rural problem

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont — Ray has been living on the streets for years, a victim of alcohol, personal setbacks and poverty. As he puts it, "I didn't have nothing and I just went to hell."

With his long grey beard and tattered clothes, Ray looks like many of the homeless men who wander the streets of New York, but he and others like him can be found in Brattleboro, a picturesque town of 12,000 people that is grappling with a problem more typically associated with big cities.

State and local officials say they are increasingly aware that homelessness is a growing problem in a state where most of the residents think they have escaped urban concerns.

"There is a tendency by the public to assign homelessness to Boston or Washington," said Betty Platt, director of Brattleboro's

Morningside emergency shelter, one of only four publicly-funded shelters in this northeastern state. "Homelessness is just invisible," she said. "People here just have no idea how difficult it is."

Rural homelessness is not unique to Vermont. The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that in 1983 there were at least 700,000 people in rural areas of the country who were homeless or in immediate risk of losing their shelter they had.

Maria Foscarnin, director of the coalition's Washington office, said the situation had deteriorated since then.

The main federal programmes providing housing aid to the rural poor had been cut by 50 per cent over five years, by the Reagan administration.

She said the rural homeless in many ways faced greater hardships than those in cities, because small towns rarely had adequate facilities to deal with the problem.

In Vermont, for example, the state's four shelters have a total of

66 beds to serve an estimated 500 homeless people.

Brattleboro's Morningside shelter, with 12 beds, is the only facility aiding homeless families in an 80-km radius. Between October 1984 and September 1985, the shelter took in 270 people but turned away 275.

Last autumn Morningside turned away more than 100 people. On one recent night it had to refuse nine calls for shelter, including four families.

Faith Ministries Mission, a private shelter in Brattleboro operated by Walter and Emily White, also has no problem filling its nine beds. The Whites started their shelter in their garage in 1981, and support it with their earnings as a maintenance man.

They only take in single men, and Emily White said she felt helpless about not being able to help families. "We get calls from so many families, there are so many more children without shelter and

we just can't do anything for them."

There is general agreement that the rural homeless are the victims of the same spiralling housing costs that afflict cities.

Vermont is the most rural state, with two-thirds of its 530,000 residents living in towns of fewer than 2,500 people. The largest city, Burlington, has a population of only 37,000.

But the state's largest industry is tourism, drawing thousands upon thousands of people with its snowy mountains, colourful autumn foliage and quaint New England towns.

Even rooming houses and motels, often the last resort of the poor, double or triple rates during peak tourist seasons.

Rents and housing prices have skyrocketed in recent years while the incomes of Vermonters working in the tourist industry are rarely above minimum wage, state officials say.

"Housing in Vermont takes up

50 per cent and more of a low income family's salary, and that is without utilities. Heating can easily add up to another 30 per cent," said Pamela Green, director of the state's Economic Opportunity Office.

Resort development has made property a lucrative commodity. "People here can no longer afford to live on the land where they have grown up."

Vermont's Agency for Human Services, in its first effort to measure the number of homeless people in the state, came up with a total of 1,892 people who sought shelter in 1984.

But Green said there were many more homeless than official figures indicated. "A lot of the problem is hidden," she said.

"Because the really rural areas do not have shelters and because of extended family ties in these areas you will sometimes find three families living in a trailer because they have nowhere else to go."

In Brattleboro, the homeless issue sparked controversy this winter when some of the Whites' neighbours unsuccessfully petitioned the town zoning board to remove the mission.

Walter White, a former alcoholic who stopped drinking 17 years ago, says the homeless are a community's responsibility.

White said the zoning battle was actually useful because it drew attention to the problem.

"So many people came up to me at the (zoning) hearing and said they just didn't know this was going on here," he said.

Having won the zoning board's approval of his shelter, White is now lobbying the town's 17 churches to join together to build a larger facility that can take in families.

In the meantime, men continue to stream to the Whites' shelter, brought by police, sent by hospitals or arriving on their own after hearing of it from other street people.

Test-tube babies herald brave new world, forensic expert warns

The author, Professor Hans-Bernhard Wernsmann, is head of Erlangen-Nuremberg University department of forensic medicine.

HUMAN embryos deep-frozen at an early stage of development survive refrigeration unharmed and fears that the cold may cause them mental harm are mere speculation.

These fears merely divert attention from the effect of an entirely different kind of cold that cannot be measured by thermometer.

It is the cold chill of the ruthlessly rational way in which embryos are man-handled to produce test-tube babies.

The deep-freeze technique is needed to keep surplus embryos alive. But surplus embryos do not occur by coincidence; they are stockpiled to cater for a demand.

The only known way to preserve an ovum is to fertilise it and deep-freeze the embryo. The "spare" deep-frozen embryo is only transplanted to the womb if the first transplant fails. So the surplus embryo leads only a surrogate existence.

The idea of deep-freezing a surplus embryo is understandable.

The aim is to spare the mother a repetition of the ovum extraction procedure.

Otherwise she would be liable to one new course of hormone treatment after another and to operations under full anaesthesia.

Medical ethics enters the picture when it is a matter of whether reducing the burden on the mother to a minimum warrants conducting surplus embryos and junking them when they are no longer needed.

The usual answer is that the mother must come first. But the

upshot is that surplus embryos are available for scientific research.

So the ice cuts both ways, as it were. The embryos serve a scientific interest as well as the mother's.

The test-tube baby born in Erlangen on Feb. 28, spent the first few days of its life deep-frozen as a standby in case the first transplant was a failure (which it was).

The Benda Report, commissioned inter-ministerially in Bonn, studiously avoids going into the ethics of deep-freezing embryos for this purpose.

It does, however, go into another argument, that after hormone treatment to produce the embryos the mother might be in a worse condition physically to go ahead with the embryo transfer than a month or so later.

So it could be advisable to deep-freeze the embryo and not go ahead with the transplant until a later menstrual cycle.

But the longer time is allowed to pass between test-tube fertilisation and transplantation, the greater what may be called the non-medical risk grows.

The mother may change her mind and no longer want to go

ahead with pregnancy. She may fall ill, lose her husband or simply no longer want a child.

No-one can or will then want to force her to go ahead with it, so the embryo is left over and is surplus to requirements, as it were.

Its legal status may also be changed by transplantation, and the longer it is delayed, the likelier a change in legal status becomes.

If its parents' marriage is annulled or the father dies before the transplant, then legally the baby may inherit but not be a clear-cut case for the family court.

— Frankfurter Allgemeine.

USA TODAY comes via satellite

WASHINGTON D.C. — USA TODAY announced on March 26 that on May 6, it will begin sending its international edition to Europe via satellite for printing in Switzerland.

David Mazzarella, President of USA TODAY International, said introduction of the printing operation in Europe means that the international edition of USA TODAY will be available for early-morning delivery in most European capitals — and with fresher news.

USA TODAY, the fastest-growing newspaper in the U.S.A., is now the second largest with a daily circulation of more than 1.4 million.

The satellite printing operation in Switzerland will be USA TODAY's second site outside the U.S. Since October, the edition has been transmitted to Singapore for distribution throughout the Pacific Rim.

Mazzarella said the USA TODAY international edition, a condensed version of the domestic edition, emphasises the same news and features as the domestic edition of the USA TODAY — with the addition of the first full-colour daily world weather map published anywhere.

In Europe, Mazzarella said that printing will be done by Ringier Co., AG of Zurich at their Lucerne (Adligenswil) offset printing centre.

The USA TODAY international edition, printed in two sections, has a minimum of 16 pages and a current maximum of 32 at the Swiss plant.

Since July 1984, the international edition for Europe has been printed in New York and flown across the Atlantic for distribution in more than 30 countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Surveys by USA TODAY have shown that readers of the international edition include Americans traveling abroad for business or pleasure as well as Americans living outside the U.S. Mazzarella said. In addition, a number of readers are citizens of other countries who have strong business interests in or other ties

to the U.S., he added.

The newspaper is sold at newsstands in hotels, airports and rail stations as well as major street kiosks throughout Europe and the Middle East. In addition, a number of airlines and hotels purchase the paper for distribution to their best customers. Subscriptions to the international edition also are available in Europe and the Middle East.

Mazzarella said that printing of the international edition in Switzerland will mean not only fresher news, but also a distribution system made more reliable by elimination of the trans-Atlantic flights.

Through the use of satellite, the transmission process for the entire paper from Arlington, VA., where USA TODAY is prepared, to Switzerland, is about three hours.

The pages first travel via digital telephone lines to a satellite dish located at the printing site in Adligenswil, Switzerland, about 3 miles from Lucerne and 25 miles from Zurich.

USA TODAY's only national general-interest daily newspaper in the U.S., was launched on September 15, 1982, by Gannett. It is now distributed in all 50 states with a daily paid circulation exceeding 1.4 million.

Gannett is a nationwide information company that publishes 91 daily newspapers, including USA TODAY, 40 non-daily newspapers and USA WEEKEND, a newspaper magazine. It also operates eight television stations, 15 radio stations and owns the largest outdoor advertising company in North America.

Gannett also has marketing, news television production, research satellite information systems and a national group of commercial printing facilities. Gannett has operations in 36 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Canada, Singapore and Switzerland — News release.

Florida's everglades: wildlife paradise

By Robert Barkin

CONSIDERED ONE of the finest sighting spots in America, Florida's Everglades draws crowds of birds as well as bird watchers. From the early days in October, when the green herons arrive, to the late days in May when they leave, Everglades National Park offers the vacationer an enchanting diversion from the fine dining spots and beaches of the Miami area.

The colourful mix of birds draws veterans every week with their high-powered telescopes, cameras and standard bird guides. There is almost endless variety.

Of the 645 or so breeding species of birds in North America north of Mexico, more than 300 make the Everglades their home at some time during the year, park officials say. Six of those species are on the U.S. government's protected list — wood stork, southern bald eagle, brown pelican, peregrine falcon, Everglade kite and cape sabbie sparrow.

Some of these birds are found in the wooded areas or on the cays (pronounced keys) lying off the shore of the park's mainland, accessible only by canoe or motorboat. Yet even a day visitor can

see many of these graceful birds from the park's marked, sometimes boardwalk-covered trails.

Birds are attracted to the Everglades by its environment, a combination of tropical and temperate climates. It is actually a freshwater river about 15 centimetres deep and 80 kilometres wide, sloping gradually from its source at Lake Okeechobee to the Atlantic Ocean. The national park contains about 600,000 hectares.

Most birdwatchers begin their outings at the visitors centre near the park's gate. There, the rangers offer tips about the best sightings and heaviest activity in recent weeks.

The most popular spot, just past the park entrance, is the Anhinga Trail, a boardwalk that passes water holes where birds and other wildlife are at the visitors' feet.

On one visit, we watched ranger Shirley Becue use pictures to show how tails, wings and even eye markings help identify the birds. Later that afternoon, she led a bird walk, using bird calls — female calls to attract males, the calls of enemies to flush out adversaries — to bring the birds from their hideouts.

— The Baltimore Sun.

Preparations for Indonesia's air show run smoothly

FROM the 3rd week of June through early July 1986, Jakarta will be the aeronautical and space centre of the world, for, at that period of time an important international event will take place. The event is called Indonesia Air Show 1986 (IAS '86). It will be participated by numerous countries from all over the world: West Europe, East Europe, America and Asia, which include the United States of America, France, Great Britain, Canada, West Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Pakistan and some other countries, besides Indonesia as the host.

It is hoped that IAS '86 will lead to an open arena for international dialogue and cooperation among three interested parties, namely: developed industrial countries promoting their advanced technology products, emerging industrial countries with the potential to join in mutually beneficial cooperation, and those countries interested in state-of-the-art of aerospace products both displayed during the exhibition and buyers.

IAS '86 will exactly take place from June 22 through July 1, 1986, at Kemayoran Airfield, Jakarta. Similar exhibitions will be held every ten years in Indonesia.

The exhibition activities will be centred on three basic areas, namely: Indoor Exhibition area consisting of halls which cover hundreds of indoor stands, Outdoor Exhibition area on the spacious apron of Kemayoran Airfield for the display of aircraft (both static and dynamic), amusement etc., and the Reception Chalet area for participants/exhibitors' trading offices and entertainment of their guests. The three basic exhibition areas alone consume approximately 7 hectares, whereas the whole area for the air show covers 50 hectares of the Kemayoran site.

Static and dynamic show is the highlight of the Indonesia Air Show 1986. The flight display will include, among others, the performance of some internationally well-known acrobatic teams such as Red Arrow and Thunderbird, etc. Helicopter acrobatic will also

be performed during the exhibition. It will present the latest technology of aircraft types: fighter, trainer, helicopter and transport.

To facilitate the participants and visitors, the IAS '86 Committee will provide services and facilities such as freight forwarding, insurance, customs, accommodation and the like, all to be handled by consortiums of internationally experienced companies. In relation with promotion for the Indonesia's tourism, in the occasion of the IAS '86, tour packages to the country's most attractive places of interest have been arranged.

For those involved in non-aerospace activities, a special area called Promotion Centre is made available. Here they can make use of typical booths for souvenirs, aircraft models, magazines, etc. Apart from displaying exhibits, conventions/seminars will be held during the IAS '86, presenting topics related with aerospace industries, science and technology in general. — IAS press release.

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Souness assumes post as new manager of Rangers

GLASGOW (R) — Graeme Souness, who will shortly captain Scotland in the World Cup finals for the second time, Tuesday took over as player-manager of one of his country's top clubs, Glasgow Rangers.

Souness, who currently plays for Italy's Sampdoria, will fill a similar role to his friend and teammate Kenny Dalglish, now player-manager of the Liverpool club both players graced during its most successful period.

The 34-year-old midfielder takes over from Jock Wallace, who was dismissed for his inability to stop the recent decline in Rangers' fortunes during his second period in charge at Ibrox.

Like city rivals Celtic, Rangers, who last won the Premier title in 1978, have suffered from the rising influence of East Coast teams like Aberdeen, Dundee United and Hearts.

The new board at Rangers hope Souness, who has never played league soccer in Scotland, will be able to instill into the occasionally hidebound club some of the flair, energy and aggression he has shown in many of his 51 appearances for Scotland.

"I always wanted to get into management but I never expected to land such a big job," said Souness, who appeared at a packed news conference Tuesday wearing a Rangers blazer.

Souness will play his final three games for Sampdoria before taking over the reins at Ibrox. Rangers may have to pay out around \$500,000 in compensation to the

Italian club for the remaining year of Souness' three-year contract. "I'm Scottish through and through. It was a big job but I'm a fairly confident person and I believe I can do the job that is required," Souness said.

Rangers Chief Executive David Holmes said: "We are honoured to welcome Graeme to our club. He has a great pedigree, having played under managers such as Bob Paisley (at Liverpool)."

Souness, who learnt his trade with Tottenham and Middlesbrough, helped Liverpool win three European Cups and five English League titles in his six years at the club.

Souness, who ran away from Tottenham because he was so homesick for his native country, joined Sampdoria in June 1984 and last year took them to victory in the Italian cup.

Swiss seek upset of W. Germany

By Ivar Von Rulach
Reuter

ZURICH — World Cup soccer finalists West Germany, who have been forced to leave behind many of their best players, face a Swiss side eager to average 30 years of failure in Basel's St. Jakob Stadium Wednesday.

The Swiss last beat their powerful northern neighbours 3-1 in 1956 in Frankfurt, and have not won at home since 1941.

West German manager Franz Beckenbauer, deprived of several key players, including captain Karl Heinz Rummenigge, because of injuries or club commitments, has responded by recalling Bayern Munich striker Dieter Hoeness after a seven-year break.

Hoeness, 33, who scored three times in his only two international appearances in 1979, has been in fine form this season, scoring 13 goals for Bayern.

He is the one striker in Beckenbauer's 16-man squad and is likely to be joined up front by young midfielder Olaf Thon.

Swiss trainer Daniel Jeandupeux, reacting to Hoeness's

selection, said: "We will have to control the midfield effectively to ensure that he is starved of scoring chances in front of goal."

Jeandupeux is still experimenting in his second match as national coach after losing 1-0 away to Turkey last month. He is expected to blood three players, Grasshopper Zurich goalkeeper Martin Brunner, brilliant against Argentina last week, Neuchatel defender Claude Ryt and Lucerne's striker Andre Halter.

Halter, 19, will link up with

Claudio Sulser, who is back to full fitness after a long, injury-forced lay-off.

Overall, though, it is an experienced Swiss squad—it includes 10 players with over 30 caps—and they have an outstanding chance of their ninth win in 43 meetings with the Germans.

West Germany, losing finalists in the last World Cup in Spain, have won their last two matches against Italy and Brazil, victories which broke a record run of six games without a win last year.

Hamburg unloads players in response to cash crisis

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — Hamburg, European Soccer Champions in 1983, are being forced to sell off players to survive a cash crisis.

Five members of the first team squad, including Scottish international striker Mark McGhee and Norwegian midfielder Erik Soler, have already left the West German club this season and Hamburg have just announced that another three are to go.

Midfielder Wolfgang Roloff, who played in the 1983 European Cup final and is a current member of the West German national team, will join Bayer Leverkusen this summer for \$625,000.

Monday Hamburg said regular defender Michael Schroeder and reserve Manfred Waser must go on the transfer list too.

Hamburg manager Guenter Netzer said the club wanted to retain both Roloff and Schroeder but had to let them go for financial reasons.

This season's problems, followed an early exit from the UEFA and domestic cup competitions, and a drastic fall in home gates.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bahrain holds Kuwait to draw

BAHRAIN (R) — New Gulf Soccer Cup Champions Kuwait were held to a 1-1 draw by Bahrain on the final day of the tournament Monday, while Qatar won a surprise 3-2 victory over United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Kuwaitis, with 11 points from six matches, took the title from defending champions and World Cup finalists Iraq who sent a second-string team to the seven-nation contest. Bahrain were the only team to take a point from the new champions when Mohammad Al Amiri equalised with a fine header in the 62nd minute of an even but lacklustre match. Kuwait's Faisal Al Dakhil had put his team ahead in the first half.

Passarella signs with Internazionale

MILAN, Italy (R) — Italian club Internazionale said Tuesday they had signed Argentine sweeper Daniel Passarella from Fiorentina for the equivalent of \$345,000. Passarella, 32, will have a one-year contract with the Milan club, spokesman Valberto Migliani told Reuters. Migliani said the club was not releasing details of the player's salary for the season, but said it would be less than the \$480,000 reported in the Italian press. Passarella announced last month he would leave Fiorentina following a disagreement with the club management. Last Sunday, he scored the first of Fiorentina's two goals against league leaders Juventus in a game which could prove crucial for the championship. Juventus' defeat enabled Roma to close the gap at the top to one point with three games remaining.

FIFA sets new guidelines

ZURICH (R) — World Cup soccer finalists will be barred from playing official matches in Mexico, against either club or other national teams, from April 30. In its latest official circular the International Football Federation (FIFA) has laid down strict guidelines to the 24 finalists regarding warm-up matches in Mexico where the World Cup starts on May 31. The finalists, already banned from playing in World Cup stadiums, will be allowed to play official matches on other grounds in Mexico until the end of the month. From then on only training matches will be permitted.

Jordan gives Bulls a lift

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan's return to the Chicago Bulls came just in time to lift them back into the NBA playoff race.

Jordan, who criticised the team's management for limiting his playing time and for trying to delay his return from a broken foot that sidelined him for most of the season, scored 26 points on Monday night as Chicago defeated the Central Division champion Milwaukee Bucks 107-101.

The triumph gave the Bulls a one-game lead over Cleveland in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot. The Cavaliers lost to Detroit 128-104.

Orlando Woolridge, who also has been hobbled by injuries this season, added 24 points for the Bulls.

Chicago led 98-85 with 5:12 left before the Bucks' Randy Breuer led a comeback with eight points

as Milwaukee closed to 100-97 with 2:06 left.

But a pair of free throws and basket by Woolridge ended Milwaukee's five-game winning streak.

Woolridge's 10 third-quarter points helped the Bulls lead by as many as 19 midway through the period. They maintained an 87-74 advantage going into the final 12 minutes.

Nuggets 131, Suns 123

Alex English, who is in a close battle with Dominique Wilkins and Adrian Dantley for the scoring title, scored 11 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter for Denver.

Knicks 106, Pacers 104

Louis Orr hit an 18-foot jumper with three seconds left to break an eight-game losing streak for New York and extend Indiana's loss string to nine. The Pacers were ahead 103-94 with 2:48 remaining. But New York scored 10 consecutive points, pulling ahead 104-103 on Chris McNeely's two free throws with 22 seconds left.

Hong Kong stung by racing scandal

Hong Kong's popular horse racing scene is plodding through a heavy course. A commission of inquiry has led to 22 arrests, suspension of jockeys and a trainer, dismissal of officials and disruption of the racing calendar. David Dodwell describes efforts to bridge corruption.

HONG KONG — There is an old and irreverent saying in Hong Kong that the territory is run by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Hongkong Bank, and the Governor — in that order of importance.

This is, of course, a distortion of the truth. But it goes some way towards explaining the extraordinary level of shock felt recently as investigations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) into race-rigging have led to 22 arrests, the suspension of leading jockeys and a trainer, the dismissal of one of the club's most senior officials, and disruption of the two most illustrious events of the racing season.

The 101-year-old Jockey Club is one of the territory's leading civic institutions, counting among its stewards the most prominent men and women in the territory, making contributions to almost 50 charities, paying betting duties out of its monopoly on gambling which accounts for 8 per cent of the government's recurrent income, and providing work for almost 12,000 people.

The ICAC, which was set up after wide-ranging powers in 1973 after scandals linked the police and local "triad" underworld gangs, has shrouded investigations in secrecy and threatened dire punishment against anyone identifying men now released on bail. No charges have been brought, and none is expected for perhaps two months.

Meanwhile, the territory is buzzing with gossip about "the cancer" which spread into the club, about voting members who are "helping police with their inquiries," about the shadowy "Mr. Fick" whose legendary Shanghai syndicate with links into Australia's criminal underworld is now supposed to have been smashed, and about how dim a view Peking is likely to take of the affair.

To understand the shock, it is important to understand the fanaticism of many Hong Kong men towards gambling and horse-racing. One has only to be caught once at a Saturday lunch at Kowloon Tong railway station, as up to 50,000 punters coverage on their way to the Sha Tin racecourse in Hong Kong's New Territories. With their racing papers rolled tight like batons in their fists, and pocket radios stuck to their ears, they give an unforgettable impression of the nearest Hong Kong has to a national cult.

In 66 race meetings last year, punters in this territory of just 5.5 million people bet HK\$ 19.7 billion (\$2.60 billion), equivalent to

ing scene will alter that view is unclear.

The only previous racing scandal on a similar scale erupted in 1971, when the discovery of carrots laced with drugs in a race horse's stable led to the imprisonment of a leading local jockey said to be at the centre of a major doping racket. Within months of the scandal's emerging, the Jockey Club had decided to make racing professional, with increasingly strict supervision.

This latest inquiry into race fixing has evidently been going on for two years. The Jockey Club has been co-operating secretly with the ICAC for six months, with undercover investigators working as stable boys.

Gossip about syndicates fixing the outcome of races has been common fare among punters for several years.

Action by the Jockey Club has been swift. Mr. Brian Sullivan, its senior stipendiary steward, has been dismissed. Eleven jockeys have been suspended — nine of them to the end of the season. One of the territory's leading trainers has also been suspended.

As a result, the two main events of the season have been turned upside down. Seven of the top 10 jockeys are suspended. The recent HK\$500,000 Derby classic was littered with apprentice riders. The special challenge cup arranged for a visiting team led by Britain's legendary Lester Piggot was contested by a local reserve team.

Officials insist the purge will be for the better. They have been seen to be taking firm moves to keep clean a sport which worldwide is notoriously corrupt. Local punters can be cheered that the 82 per cent of takings returned in winnings will be spread more honestly and evenly among them. Until another "Mr. Fick" emerges, that is — *The Financial Times*.

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN CONTRACTS

35/86/DZW, 36/86/GSW, 37/86/GAW
38/86/GMW, 39/86/GNW

1- Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland, Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified in the Ministry of Public Works as General, First and Second Class Water and Sewerage upper divisions to submit bids for the construction of:

1-1 17 km of water mains between Duhlail and Zatari 24" in diameter for contract 35/86/DZW.

1-2 The general water contract consisting of mains, secondaries and house connections for contract 36/86/GSW "Southern areas".

1-3 The general water contract consisting of mains, secondaries and house connections for contract 37/86/GAW "Amman areas".

1-4 The general water contract consisting of mains, secondaries and house connections for contract 38/86/GMW "Middle areas".

1-5 The general water contract consisting of mains, secondaries and house connections for contract 39/86/GNW "Northern areas".

2- A prebid conference will be held on Monday April 14th, 1986 at 0900 at the Water Authority's main office in Amman.

3- On April 14th, 1986 foreign contractors shall submit in a sealed envelope, in person or by mail, information about the firm for prequalification. The information will be evaluated and contractors will be informed whether or not to submit bids.

4- The bids are due not later than 1200 Jordan local time on Saturday, May 10th, 1986 at the Tender Department of the Water Authority, Jabal Al-Husseini, Amman. The cost of each copy of the Tender documents is JD 75 non-refundable.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

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Adda, behind Alfa office
Tel: 875673
THE TEARS OF DEVILS
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Man claims he planned to shoot Aquino, implicates active general

MANILA (R) — A man arrested on robbery charges claimed he planned to kill President Corason Aquino and implicated a general in the plot, Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales said Tuesday.

He told reporters police and security agents were investigating the alleged plot to shoot Mrs. Aquino at a "people power" victory rally last month.

Gonzales said the man, identified as a Romualdo Mercado, implicated an active service general in the plot but the minister refused to name the officer.

According to Manila newspapers, Mercado confessed Monday that he had planned to shoot Mrs. Aquino at a victory rally on March 2 but backed out at the last minute.

Gonzales said he had told investigators to be "very careful" to determine if he is telling the truth or merely trying to hit the headlines.

Mercado was arrested on Saturday after an American businessman complained that \$6,000 had been stolen from his hotel

room. He was turned over to presidential security investigators Monday.

Gonzales said: "We have been receiving raw, unverified reports (of plots against Mrs. Aquino) but this is the first time someone has admitted to being involved in such a plan."

Mercado, 30, told police he was offered \$50,000 pesos (\$25,000) to shoot Mrs. Aquino. "He implicated a general but I think it is not fair at this point in time (to name him)," Gonzales said. "He claims the general engaged him for that purpose."

The minister said the general was still on active service but would not say in which branch of the Philippine Armed Forces.

There was no official presidential palace comment on the alleged assassination plot.

Meanwhile a prosecutor in the Benigno Aquino murder case said Tuesday that deposed Marcos ordered the acquittal of former military chief Gen. Fabian Ver and 25 other people accused of involvement in the killing.

"It was Marcos himself," Manuel Herrera told the official Philippine News Agency when asked who ordered the acquittal of Ver, two other generals, 22 soldiers and one civilian accused in the August 1983 murder.

Herrera, one of five government prosecutors assigned to the case, told reporters last month Marcos had put pressure on the court to dismiss the charges, warning them "it could be bloody" if they pursued the case against Ver and the others.

Marcos loyalist killed

Masked men stabbed to death a former provincial governor loyal to deposed Philippine leader Ferdinand Marcos Tuesday, the official Philippine News Agency said.



Clint Eastwood

Carmel votes for new mayor

CARMEL, California (R) — Residents of Clint Eastwood's hometown vote in elections which could cast the tough-guy actor in a new role — town mayor.

Eastwood, 55, is trying to oust incumbent Charlotte Townsend as mayor of Carmel, a seaside town 240 kilometres south of San Francisco.

A 14-year resident of the usually placid resort, Eastwood campaigned quietly on a platform promising better city government.

The stoney-faced actor, known for his roles in the Dirty Harry police series and spaghetti westerns like *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*, sparked near riots whenever he campaigned.

Tanned and neatly dressed in coat and tie, he drew a crowd of 2,000 when he walked down a street on Sunday to shake hands with voters. After less than five minutes, he was forced to duck into a curio shop and escape out a back door.

Some of the crowd waited nearly an hour outside the shop for him to re-appear.

Tourists snapped up "Clint for Mayor" T-shirts in the run-up to the elections and bought three-dollar campaign booklets as mementoes of the biggest political development in the town's history.

One shop owner spelled out "Eastwood" in a display window with big block letters of imported chocolate.

Campaign workers kept the movie star's movements secret and refused to hand out campaign literature to non-residents.

Townsend, 61, Eastwood's chief opponent in the three-way race, has complained angrily about the attention his candidacy brought to Carmel, a picturesque town of only 4,700 people.

"I'm not here to talk to the press," she told reporters — many of them from foreign press organisations — who surrounded her as she tried to find voters in Sunday's crowd.

The third candidate, environmentalist Timothy Grady, 27, received little notice.

A fourth candidate, millionaire businessman Paul Laub, 41, dropped out of the race last week, saying he was backing Eastwood.

Local media conducted polls last week which they said showed 61 per cent support for Eastwood and 25 per cent for Townsend.

Weinberger reaffirms support for Thailand

Surin, Thailand (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Tuesday reaffirmed Washington's commitment to stand by Thailand.

He told Thai villagers affected by a spillover of fighting from Kampuchea that it was inspiring to see them stand firm against Vietnam's "brutal invasion tactics."

"In your struggle for freedom and peace we want you to know that we are with you ... We stand with you in your struggle to remain free," he said.

Mr. Weinberger was speaking during a visit to Ban Jarat village, 10 kilometres from the Kampuchean border after a military briefing at the Suranaree Task Force headquarters in north east Surin province, 440 kilometres from Bangkok.

The village came under Vietnamese artillery fire last year and village officials said many people were killed or wounded.

Thai army commanders briefed Mr. Weinberger on the situation at outposts along the border where more than 100 Thais were killed in the past year.

He was shown weapons captured from intruding Vietnamese

troops, including Chinese-made AK47 rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, mines and machine guns, and remarked: "You have quite a haul here."

Mr. Weinberger was greeted by almost all the 1,110 villagers at Ban Jarat who lined the main road waving U.S. and Thai paper flags.

Bareheaded under a 90-degree tropical sun, he watched village girls dance, to traditional music before handing out gifts of books, medicines and sports equipment.

He looked relaxed after an Asian tour which has taken him to South Korea, Japan and the Philippines. He leaves Thailand Wednesday after a three-day visit for an overnight stay in Bali on his way to Australia.

From Ban Jarat village, Mr. Weinberger and his party flew in eight helicopters to a nearby artillery firebase at Ban Lan Tae where he saw Thai gunners fire a dummy round from a 155 mm gun at a mock enemy concentration inside Thailand.

"I'm very impressed," he told the gunners. "You're as fast as any American gun crew."

Mr. Weinberger last visited the border area in 1982.



Chinese province restores bullfighting

PEKING (R) — Bullfighting will return to the East China province of Zhejiang in June for the first time in 50 years, the People's Daily said Tuesday. Its overseas edition said the sport, once the area's most popular pastime, would be held in a special 10,000-seat stadium being built by private and collective firms.

Nigeria seizes 445 elephant tusks

LAGOS (R) — Police seized 445 elephant tusks and nearly 1,400 animal skins in a raid on warehouses in north eastern Nigeria, the news agency of Nigeria has reported. It quoted a local government official in the town of Mafikgar as saying he believed the tusks and lizard and python skins had been smuggled into Nigeria via Cameroon from the Central African Republic.

Part of Miss World contest judging to be held in Macao

LONDON (R) — Organisers of the Miss World beauty pageant have decided to hold part of the 1986 contest in Macao following hints of biased Western judging. "There has been comment that Western judges do not understand the Eastern style of beauty," Miss World Chairman Eric Morley said. All the contestants will be filmed in swimsuits in Macao where they will be marked by judges from the Far East, but the final choice will still be made in London in November. Only one contestant from Asia has won the Miss World crown in its 35-year history, Miss India in 1966.

AIDS congress opens in Austria

GRAZ, Austria (R) — Scientists and doctors from Europe, Israel and Japan have begun a two-day congress here to try to coordinate efforts to fight the killer disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Delegates to the meeting, the second organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), will discuss the establishment of a European programme in cooperation with the health authorities of participating countries. Experts from Eastern Europe are among the 70 delegates, apparently reflecting growing concern in Communist countries at the spread of the disease, which they officially described for some time as one of the ills of capitalism. AIDS cases have now been reported in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary.

Bullfighters call off strike

MADRID (R) — Spain's bullfighters called off an indefinite strike after winning a last-minute pledge from the government to study their pension demands, a spokesman for the Bullfighters' Association said Tuesday. The strike by 6,000 to 7,000 "professionals of the bull" was due to start Tuesday and threatened Seville's famous spring festival opening on Friday with the first major bullfights of the season. A Labour Ministry spokesman said the government would study legal solutions to the bullfighters' demands. They oppose a new pension law increasing from 30 to 35 years the minimum time of service required to qualify for full pension at 55, and a provision for pensions to be calculated on the basis of earnings in the last eight years before retirement.

Chinese peasants tuning to crime

PEKING (R) — Rich Chinese peasants are turning to crime, especially rape, to beat boredom spawned of leisure, according to an official newspaper. The Tianjin Daily News said many farmers no longer faced a struggle for survival and had become "spiritually empty" criminals. More than half the 522 reported rapes in the north east municipality of Tianjin last year were in rural areas and farmers were convicted in 45 per cent of the cases, the paper said. It did not give comparative figures but said criminologists had found the need for excitement was a common trait among bored peasants whose rising incomes had ended the daily struggle for food and shelter. "Novels are not absorbing, television doesn't offer enough entertainment," the paper quoted a rural youth jailed for bootlegging as saying.

Sikh extremists kill 4 in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Four people were killed Tuesday in violence in Punjab state and nearly 400 Sikh militants have been arrested in two days, officials said.

Police said Sikh extremists fatally shot two Sikh moderates Tuesday about 35 kilometres north of this sacred city, in the village of Qila Darshan Singh. The attackers escaped on motorcycles.

In other attacks, a Hindu police bodyguard of a Sikh state deputy and a Sikh official were reported killed. Details were not immediately available.

In addition, Sikh terrorists shot and wounded the son of a prominent Sikh warrior leader south east of Amritsar, police said.

Meanwhile, police intelligence sources, speaking on the condition they not be identified further, said 400 people were arrested in two days to prevent violence at the Sikh warrior festival of Baisakhi planned for Sunday.

Sikh militants alleged that police had launched a wave of repression in Punjab.

"We warn that police will have to pay a heavy price if they kill in false encounters Sikhs whom they brand as terrorists," said a statement signed by militant leaders.

Panic gripped Ludhiana and shopkeepers shuttered their stores after a clash Tuesday morning between police and Hindu radicals demanding a federal inquiry into last month's terrorist slaying of 10 Hindus in the city, state officials said.

The confrontation occurred when police raided the office of the militant Shiv Sena, or God's army, inside a Ludhiana Hindu temple complex and arrested its president, Jagdish Tangri, and 25 other activists.

The raid was aimed at preventing the Shiv Sena from staging a threatened general strike in the city, starting Tuesday.

The Shiv Sena says it wants to kill Sikh terrorists. Tangri says the

group provides training to its members in the use of tridents, knives and other weapons.

The radical All-India Sikh Students Federation, meanwhile, asked its members to go underground to escape police sweeps.

A number of its activists already had taken refuge in Amritsar's Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, said a spokesman for the powerful organisation.

The student organisation asked its members to go underground to escape police sweeps. Police sources said most of those arrested in the sweep belong to the radical group which seeks a Sikh homeland.

A number of its activists already had taken refuge in Amritsar's Golden Temple, a spokesman for the militants said.

In 1984, 1,200 people were killed when the Indian army stormed the temple complex to root out heavily armed Sikh extremists holed up inside.

Job-seekers riot in Haitian capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haitian troops have fired rifle bullets in the air to disperse rioting job seekers who stoned security forces in central Port-Au-Prince, witnesses said.

They said several people were injured and at least six arrested during three hours of disturbances which broke out after the Department of Public Works invited applications for 20,000 jobs, 6,000 of them in the capital.

By 8 a.m. Monday (1300 GMT) the streets around two Port-Au-Prince buildings were filled with thousands of applicants. Haiti has unemployment of about 70 per cent.

At one centre, tension among the huge crowd of job-seekers sparked fighting, witnesses said.

They said an official at the other centre was beaten up after he announced: "We don't need men in

fancy clothes, we need men to lift shovels."

The witnesses said rioting spread to several blocks in the centre of the capital where shops rolled down their shutters to avoid damage or looting.

The ruling council of Gen. Henri Namphy has faced a series of violent protests since it took over from dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier when he fled a revolt in February.

The biggest was last Sunday when a car bomb exploded outside the Kabul Hotel, injuring 22 people and damaging the facade of the hotel and the National Bank across the street.

Seven blasts, possibly from incoming rockets, were heard from the airport area on the same evening following two on Friday evening, the diplomats said.

The diplomats also said unexplained explosions and gunfights had increased in Kabul over the past week, apparently reflecting a rise in rebel strength as more guerrillas returned from winter in Pakistan.

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Phosphor burns reported in Kabul hospitals

ISLAMABAD (R) — Kabul hospitals are treating many cases of phosphor burns, suggesting Soviet and Afghan forces might be using the searing chemical as a weapon in Afghanistan, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

One man had died of burns, possibly from a phosphor bomb, they said, citing reports from the Afghan capital. They had no other details about the burns, which had not been previously reported from Afghanistan.

Moscow's estimated 115,000 troops in Afghanistan have standard Soviet army chemical units but Western diplomats say reports of them in action are rare. Rebel reports of chemical weapons mostly deal with gas and napalm.

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General goes on trial for alleged plot to kill Suharto

JAKARTA (R) — A former Indonesian cabinet minister appeared in court Tuesday accused of plotting to kill President Suharto and launch an Islamic revolution, but his trial was adjourned because he did not have a lawyer.

State prosecutors have charged Gen. Mohammad Sanusi, who served under Mr. Suharto as light industry minister from 1966 to 1968, with subversion. They have accused him of planning to topple the military-backed government and start an Iranian-style Islamic revolution in Indonesia.

Gen. Sanusi, 65, who is already serving a 19-year jail term for helping to plan three bomb attacks in 1984, told the court he had not named lawyers to represent him.

After a five-minute hearing, the trial was adjourned for one week to allow Gen. Sanusi to appoint lawyers and for them to prepare a case, a court spokesman said. The maximum penalty for subversion

is death and the spokesman said that in such cases defendants must be represented.

The prosecution alleges Gen. Sanusi provided the money for explosives and to hire bombers to kill Mr. Suharto in 1983.

Gen. Sanusi, who headed a mosque in Jakarta, is also accused of ordering his followers to distribute pamphlets rallying Muslims in Java to support an Islamic government immediately after Mr. Suharto was killed.

The alleged assassination plans were never carried out, but a series of bombings took place in late 1984 and early 1985, which were blamed on Muslim extremists linked with Gen. Sanusi.

He was convicted last May for bomb attacks in Jakarta in 1984 which killed two people. He continuously pleaded his innocence, but the supreme court turned down an appeal against his 19-year jail sentence.

Sobhraj returned to Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Charles Sobhraj, Asia's most celebrated criminal, returned to Delhi under heavy security Tuesday after three weeks on the run ended with his dramatic recapture in a Goan restaurant.

Sobhraj, grabbed by police disguised as waiters as he celebrated his 42nd birthday on Sunday night, was hustled through Delhi airport and into waiting police vehicles early this morning.

With Sobhraj was 28-year-old Briton David Richard Hall who police believe masterminded the escape from Delhi's top security Thar Jail on March 16.

Police said Sobhraj would be held in police custody before being transferred back to Thar Jail, which has been under a cloud since the Vietnamese-born French citizen coolly walked past guards dragged with spiked sweets.

"We are ready for him, and this time we will make sure he doesn't get out," jail superintendent Rajesh Somai told Reuters. "Once bitten, twice shy," Somai added.

His escape caused a row over security at the jail which also houses the three Sikhs sentenced to death for the October 1984 murder of Indira Gandhi.

Two prisoners who escaped with Sobhraj and were later recaptured told police he lived a life of luxury in the jail.

At least seven prison officials were suspended and the government ordered a revamping of security including recruitment of 200 extra prison guards.

"I don't think he was living in luxury, but we will be more stringent than before," Somai said.

Wanted in seven countries for a string of murders and robberies, Sobhraj was caught as he waited for a long distance telephone call to Paris and Beirut at Goa's "O Coqueiro" (coconut tree) restaurant.

U.S. arrests 6 Greenpeace protesters

LONDON (R) — Six members of the environmental group Greenpeace were arrested Tuesday after entering the U.S. nuclear test site in the Nevada desert to try to stop a planned underground explosion, a spokeswoman for the group said.

Six told Reuters in London the six, all U.S. citizens, were detected by a helicopter after breaching a security cordon and entering the site where the test was scheduled to take place last Tuesday.

The British-based organisation described the planned test as a "provocative act that could undermine any prospect for halting the nuclear arms race ...

"We are calling upon President Reagan not to blow it," she said. The spokeswoman said she was unaware of any charges against

the six. Members of the organisation had been arrested for trespassing during similar protests in the past, she said.

In Washington, a spokesman for the Defence Department said he could not confirm the arrests. He knew nothing of the incident but would make inquiries.

Greenpeace said that although there was no official confirmation of the timing of the planned test, it had received information from U.S. official sources that it would take place at 1700 GMT.

"It will be carried out Tuesday and will be below the 20 kilometre level that requires prior U.S. government warning," the organisation said in a statement.

The Nevada test site, opened in the early 1950s, has been the site

of U.S. and British nuclear weapons tests since 1971. It is a rectangular patch of land about 160 kilometres north of Las Vegas, southern Nevada.

The test would be the second U.S. underground explosion at the site in less than a month.

The Soviet Union, which has declared a unilateral moratorium on atomic testing, has warned it will resume nuclear weapons tests if the United States continues its experiments.

Moscow has also warned that Washington's refusal to join the Soviet Union in halting the tests could lead to a catastrophe.

Greenpeace is a global organisation that coordinates action against nuclear testing by the world's nuclear powers.

Contadora talks fail to bridge differences

PANAMA CITY (R) — Latin American nations ended peace talks on Central America with little more than an agreement to continue the search for a negotiated end to the bloodshed in the region.

A statement issued Monday at the end of the three-day meeting by the Contadora Group, its Latin American "support group" and five Central American countries indicated that U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels was a major stumbling block to a peace treaty for the region, regional diplomats said.

Earlier, U.S. allies El Salvador and Costa Rica left the meeting saying left-wing Nicaragua had blocked progress by refusing to agree to a timetable to sign a treaty.

The statement said an end to support for rebel forces by countries with links and interests in the region was indispensable to peace and spoke of "new and growing dangers." It called on the

Central American countries to meet in Panama again on June 6. Latin American diplomats said that while the statement apparently referred both to U.S. backing of the so-called contra rebels and to presumed Nicaraguan and Cuban support for left-wing rebels in El Salvador, most of the 13 countries attending the talks felt U.S. policy in Central America was the major hurdle to peace.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadía Arias said trouble had arisen at the meeting over foreign forces in the area and arms control. But he added the meeting had been "in no point of view a failure."

Key provisions of the peace pact would bind Central American countries to arms reductions and an end to the use of one country's territory for aggression against another, as well as outlawing military manoeuvres.

Three U.S. congressmen observing the meeting said the Contadora countries — Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela —

wanted Congress to delay a vote on President Reagan's \$100 million aid request for Nicaraguan rebels to give their peace initiative a chance to work.

"It may be the last opportunity for peace," said Democrat Bill Richardson.

The U.S. House of Representatives is due to vote on the controversial aid package later this month after rejecting it last month. The U.S. Senate has passed a revised version, calling on Mr. Reagan first to try negotiations with Nicaragua.

The Contadora statement read by Colombia's Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo called on the Central American countries to reply within eight days to the group's initiative to hold another meeting.

Mr. Ocampo said after more than three years of Contadora-sponsored negotiations it was time for Central American governments "to show their political will" to reach a peaceful solution.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARI

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ Q6 ♠ A8 ♠ KJ92 ♠ KJ754
- The bidding has proceeded:
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
- What do you bid now?
- Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- ♠ AQ105 ♠ K ♠ Q54 ♠ AK983
- The bidding has proceeded:
- South West North East
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
- 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
- What action do you take?
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- ♠ 782 ♠ K1074 ♠ 983 ♠ A85
- The bidding has proceeded:
- North East South West
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
- 2 ♠ Pass ?
- What action do you take?
- Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- ♠ Q1054 ♠ AQJ85 ♠ J83 ♠ 7
- The bidding has proceeded:
- North East South
- 1 NT 2 ♠ ?
- What action do you take?
- Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 7 ♠ AJ84 ♠ AK19952 ♠ K6
- The bidding has proceeded:
- South West North East
- 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
- What do you bid now?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ AK7 ♠ K5 ♠ 7 ♠ AKJ954
- The bidding has proceeded:
- South West North East
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
- 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
- What do you bid now?